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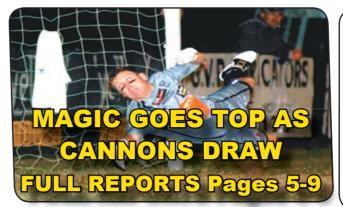
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Eagles 0 - 2 Bergers
Pines 0 - 2 Kingston

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Magic 2 - 0 Georgies







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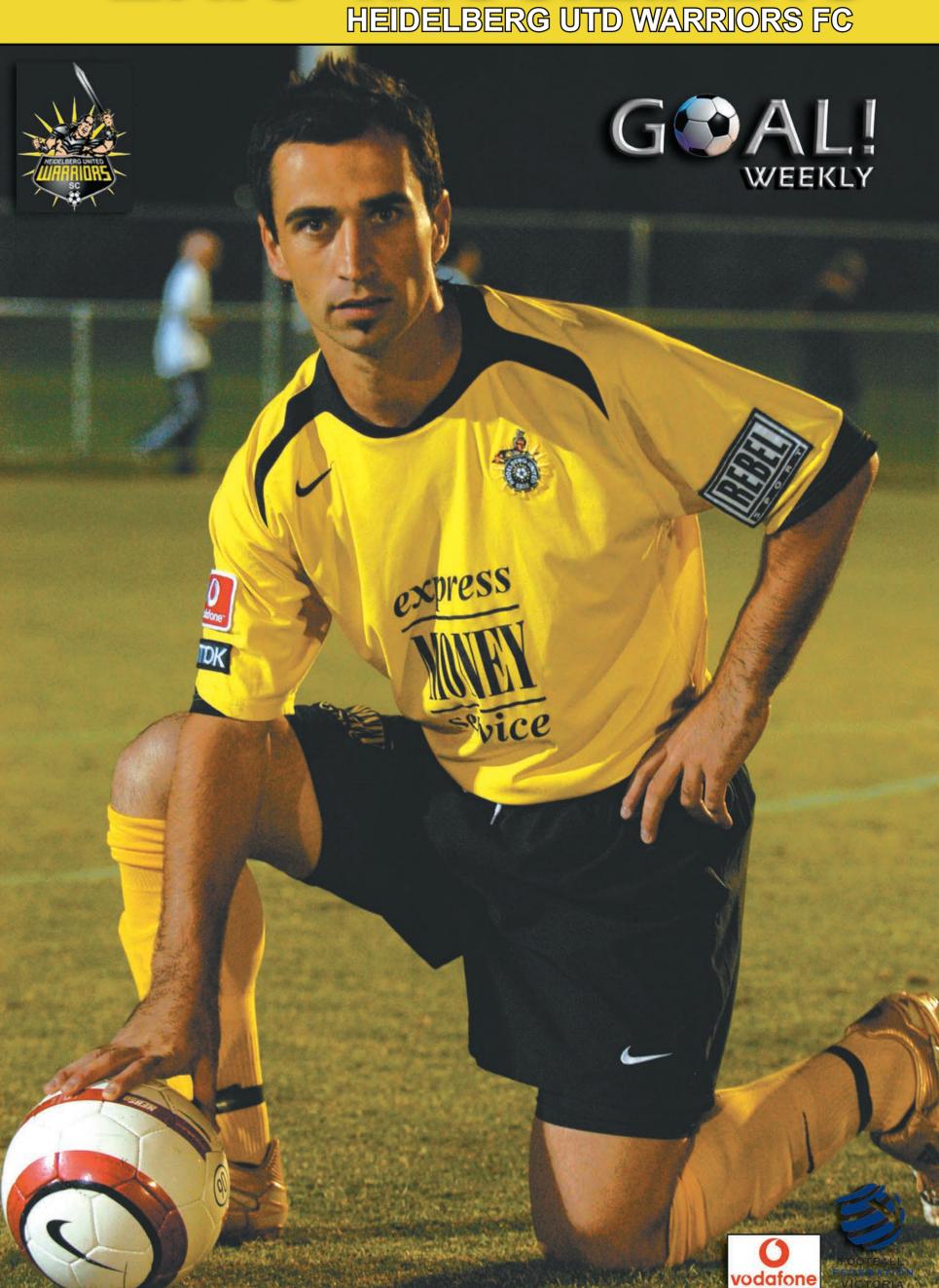
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WEEKLY

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EAGLES' BIG DAY BLOWS A FUSE

Richmond Eagles' fairytale return to the big time of Victorian football turned into a bit of nightmare on Friday night when it's hugely anticipated first home game of the season against Heidelberg United was abandoned after 35 minutes of play.

Unfortunately for the Vodafone Cup newcomers floodlight failure brought the game to a halt with Heidelberg leading two nil at the time.

When the first attempts to fix the lights were unsuccessful referee Perry Mur decided to wait for another thirty minutes before ultimately deciding to call the game off, when any further attempts proved fruitless.

Frantic efforts were made by officials to try and rectify the problem but at least twenty minutes had to initially pass in order to allow the lights to cool before a switch could be flicked again.

Spectators were then informed of the decision and reimbursed their admission fee. Although both clubs are eager resolve the issue on the pitch, it is by no means a foregone conclusion.

The real issue that needs to be clarified now is whether or not a replayed match would commence with the scores at 2-0 from the 35th minute or if the second match begins with the scores at 0-0 and a full ninety minutes played.

At this moment in time the FFV and the two respective clubs have yet to confer or confirm a decision and will probably do so later on in the week.

Although some coaches would have been relieved with such a set-back after trailing 2-0, Richmond coach Dean Henessey was far from happy with the night's chain of events. "From our point of view the club



Richmond President Helmut Kalitzky tries in vain to contact some assistance to restore power for the floolights at Kevin Bartlett Reserve as referee Perry Muir looks on.

had waited forty-three years for this moment and the night was a big night for the club. After playing five games away from home we were looking to have a big team like Heidelberg come to town and commemorate the occasion. I was thinking that it doesn't get any better than this...it's the whole reason you want to be in the Premier League. I thought the ground looked an absolute picture and I really thought we'd arrived, and rightly so."

He added, "Let's not kid ourselves they're at a disadvantage...I totally understand that. Heidelberg are obviously going feel aggrieved with the situation but unfortunately it was just one of those things. It was just disappointing for the president Helmut Kalitzki and everyone else involved at the club who had put a lot of time, effort and money into the club. It was a huge shame because it just didn't look good on our return to the

big time."

It is the second game in as many weeks that a Vodafone Cup match has failed to go ahead after the Preston and Oakleigh game was postponed last weekend due to an unfit pitch. That match has been rescheduled for Easter Monday – a date that could also prove a popular for Richmond and Heidelberg.



TAYLOR AND GEORGIES: IS IT THE END?

In unconfirmed reports it has been brought to our attention that Chris Taylor's reign at Sunshine Georgies has come to an end.

Apparently after the Georgies lost 2-0 to the high-flying Altona Magic on the weekend the Georgies committee have asked Taylor to resign. However at the time of going to press a confirmed decision has not been made. The Georgies committee has set aside tonight (Monday) for an emergency meting at Chaplin Reserve to decide the fate of Taylor.

Taylor led the Georgies from State League 2 to the Vodafone Cup/VPL in successive seasons and was hoping to finish the job he had started.



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-VODAGONE-OUP



ROUND SIX SCOREBOARD

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 2 - 2 ESS'DON ROYALS

Venue: Jack Edwards Reserve Friday 17th March Crowd: 1,100

GOALS: M.Medjedovic (ER) 40th, C.Pino (OC) 52nd, N.Schwal (ER) 65th, G.Goutzioulis (OC) 90th.

YELLOW CARDS: R.Kumar 39th, A.Kovacic 64th, N.Thomas 67th, C.Miles 75th, G.Goutzioulis 75th.

RED CARDS: None.

CANNONS: S.Webster, F.Rosman, R.Kumar (G.Goutzioulis 69th), S.Poutakidis, A.Kovacic, B.Damianos, A.Pelikan, P.Kakos, E.Masi (J.Nilo 69th), S.Webster, C.Pino.

ROYALS: M.Sutalo, N.Thomas, S.Pir, N.Schwal, J.Youseff (R.Catalano 90th), D.pilic, M.Catalano, M.Medjedovic, H.Fa'Arado, S.Fitzsimmons, C.Miles (D.Ferguson 81st).

*RICHMOND EAGLES 0 - 2 HEIDELBERG UTD

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve Friday 17th March Crowd: 800

GOALS: E.Vassiliadis (HU) 19th, N.Marinos (HU) 27th.

YELLOW CARDS: S.Burton 12th.

RED CARDS: None.

EAGLES: N.Crossley, S.Webster, S.Burton, J.Baskerville, B.Beni, J.Rajher, F.O'Colmain, T.Celentano, D.Visevic, G.Hockless, S.Rusmir.

BERGERS: L.Acevski, R.Liparoti, P.Roberts, D.Jones, L.Tsoumerkas, E.Vassiliadis, Y.Yusef, N.Sabljak, N.Marinos, J.Brown, A.Gjuni.

*Match abandoned after 35 minutes to floodlight failure. To be replayed at a yet to be decided date.

FRANKSTON PINES 0 - 2 KINGSTON CITY

Venue: Monterey Reserve Saturday 18th March Crowd: 800 (HT 0-1)

GOALS: J.Latinopoulos (KC) 28th, M.Curcija (KC) 84th.

YELLOW CARDS: N.Tolios 43rd.

RED CARDS: None.

PINES: B.Zealley, T.Malcolm, D.Djubic, J.Cumming, M.Anderson, C.Leopold, A.Naglieri, C.Metcalfe, A.Psonis, A.Oliveira, N.Waite.

KINGSTON: M.Turnbull, N.Tolios, S.Iosifidis, C.Konstans, M.Stergiopoulos (C.Hermosillia. 84th), T.Brodie, A.Kiratzoglou, J.Di Iorio (N.Papadopoulos 70th), J.Spiteri (G.Papadopoulos 89th), J.Latinopoulos, M.Curcija.

ALTONA MAGIC 2 - 0 SUNSHINE GEORGIES

Venue: Paisley Park Reserve Saturday 18th March Crowd: 800

GOALS: D.Mladenovic (AM) 48th min, I.Arsovski (AM) 78th min.

YELLOW CARDS: T.Waterson 38th, I.Razov 38th, I.Filipovic 45th, E.Muscat 66th, T.Razov 89th, J.Cvetanoski 89th.

RED CARDS: None.

MAGIC: B.Jevdevic, L.Osman, D.Mladenovic, K.Delev, K.Delev (I.Arsovski 70th), A.Opazo (S.Zilic 84th), S.Becvinovski (V.Trpcevski 82nd), T.Razov, A.Sherifovski, P.Cergovski, I.Razov.

GEORGIES: M. John, F. Richards, A Gauci-Seddon (C. Platt 72nd), C. Azzopardi, T. Waterson, D. Delic (J. Cvetanoski 64th), E. Muscat, B.Gilmour, I. Filipovic (M.Draycott 68th), S. Kovacevic, T. Neceski

GREEN GULLY 2 - 1 FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA

Venue: Green Gully Reserve Sunday 19th March Crowd:500

 ${\sf GOALS:} \ \ \textbf{A Vargas (GG), Z Markovski (GG) M Tsiorlas (FW)}$

YELLOW CARDS:

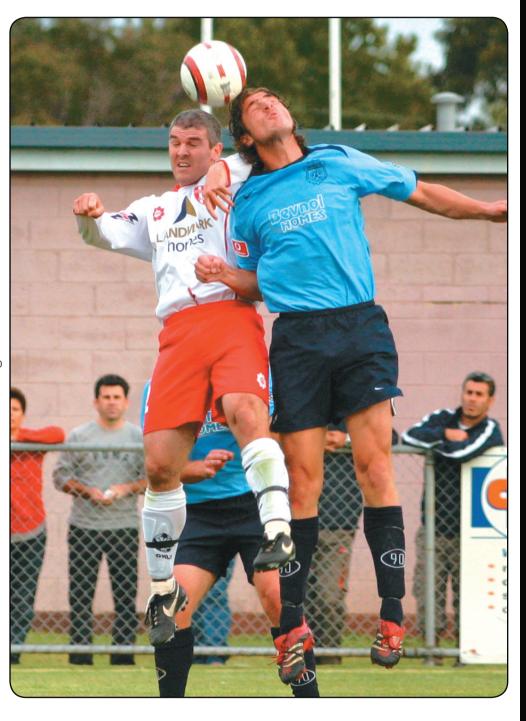
RED CARDS: None

GULLY: N/A

BLUES: N/A

VODAFONE CUP TABLE

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PTS
Magic	6	4	2	0	11	6	14
Knights	5	3	2	0	8	2	11
Cannons	5	3	2	0	9	5	11
Kingston	6	4	1	1	10	4	13
South	5	3	1	1	6	5	10
Pines	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
Gully	6	2	2	2	9	8	8
Blues	6	2	0	4	10	11	6
Royals	6	1	3	2	9	10	6
Eagles	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Georgies	6	1	1	4	6	9	4
Bergers	5	1	1	3	8	10	4
Zebras	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
Preston	4	0	1	3	5	11	1



ROUND SEVEN FIXTURES

KINGSTON CITY

GREEN GULLY

The Grange Reserve, Kingston Mel: 79 F8 Friday 24th March KO 8.15pm

RICHMOND EAGLES

ALTONA MAGIC

Kevin Bartlett Reserve, Richmond Mel: 59 A1 Friday 24th March KO 8.30pm

ESSENDON ROYALS V

BULLEEN ZEBRAS

Veneto Social Club, Bulleen Mel: 32 D9 Friday 24th March KO 8.15pm

PRESTON LIONS

V

FRANKSTON PINES

BT Connor Reserve, Preston Mel: 18 B2 Sunday 26h March KO 5.00pm

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

OAKLEIGH CANNONS

Knights Stadium, Sunshine Mel: 27 A6 Sunday 26th March KO 5pm

SUNSHINE GEORGIES

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Chaplin Reserve, Sunshine Mel: 26 G12 Sunday 26th March KO 5.00pm

FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA

HEIDELBERG UTD

Epping Stadium, Epping Mel: 182 C4 Monday 27th March KO 8.15pm



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VODAFOAE-GUP-2011 16





GREEN GULLY EXTENDS WINNING STREAK



MARKOVSKI SECURES CHAMPS' SECOND WIN

Green Gully Cavaliers 2 - Fawkner/Whittlesea Blues 1

A SECOND half strike from full back crossbar before being cleared. Zoran Markovski gave Green Gully a 2-1 win over Fawkner/Whittlesea on Sunday.

After the scores were locked at 1-1 at half time, Markovski netted the only goal of the second half to extend the Cavaliers' Vodafone Cup winning streak to three matches.

Both sides brought encouraging form into the match after slow starts to the season, and both were looking to pick up the three points and break into the top six.

It was the visiting Fawkner/Whittlesea which looked most likely to break the deadlock after only a few minutes of play when it received a free kick in a dangerous position in front of goals.

A powerful left foot strike from the Blues' winger beat the wall but cannoned into the

The visitors continued on the attack, pressuring the Cavaliers' defence at every opportunity, until a mistake on the last line put the home side behind.

A spectacular bicycle kick from Mark Tsiorlas into an open Gully net stunned the home crowd and gave the Blues a 1-0 lead after seven minutes.

Against the run of play, the Cavaliers leveled after 15 minutes with a penalty kick after Fawkner/Whittlesea defender Gregory Lombardo handled the ball in the penalty

Gully sharpshooter Andy Vargas stepped up to take the kick and calmly wrong footed Stiven Tilovski.

Both defences clamped up toward half time,

with the only genuine chance coming to Joel Nikolic eight minutes from the break, but he sliced his shot and the ball dribbled wide of the target.

The Blues again had the better of the opening exchanges at the start of the second half, beginning with a header by Tsiorlas which was wonderfully tipped over the bar by Pasi Schwalger.

The visitors had it all their own way in the opening 15 minutes of the second period, but could find no way through the Cavaliers defence.

Fawkner/Whittlesea's dominance prompted Green Gully to make a change up front, with Matthew Sanders replacing Joel Nikolic.

The change in structure lifted Green Gully's work rate almost instantly, and it was Sanders' deflected shot which led to the winning goal.

Andy Vargas whipped in a long cross which cleared the traffic in front of goal and landed perfectly for full back Zoran Markovski, who snaked a shot past the goal line despite the protestations of the Blues' defence, who claimed the ball was still in play.

The momentum swung back in favour of the home side after the goal, and it had numerous chances to extend its lead in the final 15 minutes.

The home fans received a fright when former Melbourne Victory player Carl Recchia blasted a volley on target, but a stunning save from Schwalger prevented the equaliser.

By James Taylor



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VODAFOAE-GUP Zound 6





ALTONA'S MAGIC RUN CONTINUES



HARD FOUGHT VICTORY PUTS MAGIC ON TOP OF STANDINGS

Altona Magic 2 - Sunshine Georgies 0

Altona Magic continued to put the early points on the board for this year's Vodafone Cup when it comfortably accounted for local rival Sunshine Georgies 2-0 at Paisley Park Reserve on Saturday night.

Two second half goals by the ever reliable Doug Mladenovic and Igor Arsnovski decided the issue allowing Altona to take the upper hand of being the clear leaders at this early stage of the competition, whilst the other frontrunners Melbourne Knights were idle this weekend and won't play its Round 6 tie against South Melbourne until Easter Monday.

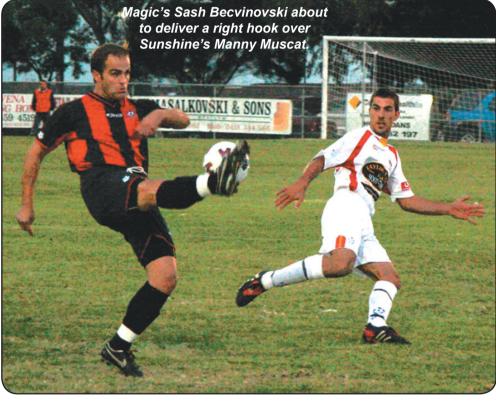
In a game where the Magic were essentially always in control and never looked in any real trouble, the first half was essentially dominated by the home team with Sash Becvinoski, Tomi Razv and Pece Cergovski looking the more enterprising going forward.

Although both teams had numerous shots at goal, the bulk by Magic, none seriously tested either 'keeper or hit the target.

The best chance of the opening forty-five minutes came after a great passage of play through the middle of the park, which saw Magic's Alfonso Opazo play a clever little backheel to the ever impressive Levent Osman, who ran on to his return pass and let fly with a shot from just outside the penalty area. Sunshine 'keeper Martin John was equal to the task and acrobatically anticipated the effort. John parried the shot as far as the ever present and former team-mate Becvinovski, who try as he might, could only steer the rebound just wide of the near post whilst the Georgies defence attempted to regain its composure.

Sunshine's best chance in the opening period came in the 37th minute when a deep corner was met by the tall defender, Simon Kovacevic, but unfortunately he couldn't get enough on his header and the ball flashed just wide of the goal as well.

Whilst the first half was full of its fair share of efforts, the second half started with players immediately illustrating their intentions that they were determined to rectify their earlier inaccuracies. If you were still lining up at the snack bar to get your



nibbles at the half time break, you might just have missed all the action that was to shortly follow, possibly even hotter than your bucket of chips.

In the first play from the restart the Georgies made a serious attempt into enemy territory. Trent Waterson used his pace down the left wing to send a cross over that was met by Ivan Filipovic, who unleashed a cracking shot from just outside the penalty area only to watch in angst as it dipped agonisingly close to the top corner but just over the cross-bar.

Keeper Jevdevic then pumped the resulting goal-kick deep into the Georgies half, whereby after an initial thunderbolt shot from Magic's Razov was blocked on the edge of the box, the Georgie's defence failed to clear its lines and the ball fell to Mladenovic, who proceeded to gratefully accept the opportunity and strike a 25 yard left foot rocket that sizzled past everyone and found its way past the lower inside of the far post and beyond the outstretched finger tips of the diving John.

Trust 'Captain Fantastic' to show 'em how it's done!

Undettered the Georgies' tails soon went up as it pressed busily to find an equaliser.

For the best part of the next twenty or so minutes the flanks were a popular destination to try and get behind the Magic defence, but time and time again the attacks could never find a way beyond the wall of red and black striped shirts to deliver the killer ball.

Against the run of play in the 78th minute a neat passage of slick Magic midfield passes beat the Georgies' offside trap and released Pece Cergovski to hurl down the right wing and cut a ferocious ball from the byline. Just as it looked like the ball was going to pass everyone running into the box, it found its way to Arsovski who did enough with his delayed run to the near post to bundle and steer the ball over the line.

All in all, a solid and composed display by Altona with sprinkles of magic against a Georgies side that fought, ran and tackled hard, but couldn't inflict a telling blow on this occasion.

Bv Don Mclean

Man of the Match **Tomi Razov** (Altona Magic)

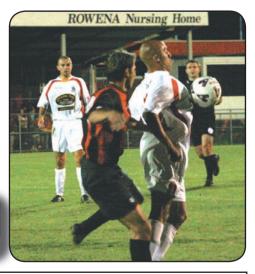
Ken Murphy Coach, Altona Magic

"It was a hard and physical contest....

Sunshine showed signs of desperation already and they were hard at it. It was big challenge to match that... we had to match them physically first before we could we do anything... thank goodness we eventually wore them down. It was just a matter of wearing them down before we could get our noses in front. You've got to give teams like Sunshine their credit...they really get stuck in there and give it their best shot. If you're going to be up there you've got to match it with teams like that and hope that the quality shines through...which is what happened. '

Chris Taylor Coach, Georgies:

"I thought it was quite even to be honest. I didn't think there was a lot in it until we conceded a goal at a disastrous time, early in the second half. We then found ourselves chasing the game...the more you chase it, the more possession we had, the more you find yourself open at the back and the more vulnerable you become on the break. That's really what done us in the end...we tried to throw men forward but got caught on the break again."





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VODAFOAE-GUP-Round 6





KINGSTON MAKES WAVES ON COASTAL ROAD TRIP



ENTERTAINING GAME SETTLED BY CURCIJA AND LATINOPOULOS GOALS

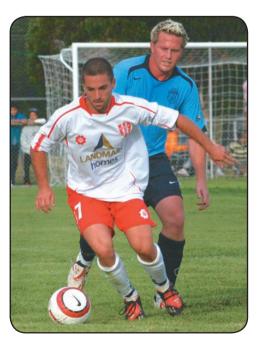
Frankston Pines 0 - Kingston City 2



While Kingston City's 2-0 away victory over Frankston Pines furthers the League debutantes claim as a viable championship contender, the Peninsula side made the Reds earn every bit of it at Monterey Reserve on Saturday.

Pines attacked every loose ball as if it were a 50-50 chance, even when it was clearly not, in an attempt to stifle Kingston's playmakers. The entire 90 minutes was played at a hectic pace, no doubt aided by the lack of stifling heat that marred last weeks fixture.

After a couple of notable attempts, including a header from Joe Di Iorio that skimmed over



the crossbar, Kingston went ahead in the 26th minute via a Jim Latinopolus' daisy-cutter from outside the box.

Joe Spiteri's quality cross, one of many from him, was initially cleared by Pines' Dino Djulevic but fell to the feet of Latinopolus whose drive caught Pines keeper Brad Zealley off guard.

Djulevic returned to form after a quiet game last week against the Blues, winning just about everything in the air for the home side. The big defender from Western Australia is a formidable presence in the Pines backline and is unafraid to have a run up the park.

Zealley produced a tidy save to deny Chris Konsianus prior to the break ensuring Pines remained within reach going into the second half.

Craig Metcalfe and Cam Leopold were standouts for Pines, asserting themselves in the midfield and creating opportunities from seemingly nothing.

Metcalfe's work on the wing provided Pines a number of chances but Kingston seemed to always have a spare man at the back, usually one with long legs to poke the ball away before the shot was on.

Breaching Kingston's last line remained the unattainable challenge for Pines with their other WA recruit, Andreas Olivieri, virtually given no time on the ball by the Kingston defence

Kingston's big men clung to Olivieri all day, effectively shutting down the exciting young striker's capacity to inflict any damage.

Pines' chance of an equaliser receded in the 82 minute when Djulevic brought down Spiteri who was running onto a one on one with Zealley. The subsequent free kick yielded Kingston's second and final goal of the day.

As Djulevic made his way from the arena after being shown the red card Curcija weaved his shot around the Pines wall into the top right hand corner to seal the match 2-0 to the visitors.

In the end Kingston's depth and experience won out on the day with many of their starters having the benefit of considerable national competition experience. Their passing was sharp and their positioning bordered on uncanny at times.

In all it was entertaining game with Kingston's ball work and Pines' tenacity providing many highlights which can be seen on TV H this week.

By Jason Gillick

Man of the Match

Alex Kiratzoglou

(Kingston City)

Craig Lewis Coach, Frankston Pines:

"We were really disappointing and it was probably our worst game of the year. We can't afford to have players not perform on the day and we had too many that were posted missing on Saturday. We basically contained Kingston to two shots and they scored two goals. We've set ourselves some high standards and we just didn't do what we are good at...it was totally unacceptable because it was a big game for us."

George Katsakis Coach, Kingston City:

"I was really wrapped to go to Frankston and get a result. We knew it was going to be tough so we worked on our defensive duties during the week. Our aim objective was to prevent them from scoring because they've managed to find the back of the net over the last few weeks. We're confident in going forward and felt that one or two would be enough to pinch it. I thought our possession in the first half was phenomenal and it was encouraging to see that the boys are starting to adapt to each other. We were organised, we penetrated at the right times and I couldn't have asked for anything



87.6 FM





VODAFOAE-OUP-Roand 6





FLOODLIGHT FAILURE LEAVES TEAMS IN THE DARK



BERGERS GRAB EARLY GOALS, POINTS PENDING

Richmond Eagles 0 - Heidelberg Utd 2

Match abandoned due to floodlight failure.

Friday night's Round 6 Vodafone Cup match between Richmond Eagles and Heidelberg United yielded no result as technical difficulties caused the referee to abandon the match.

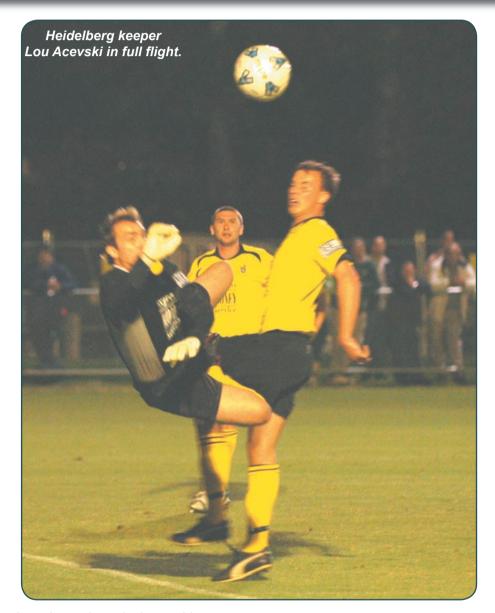
With just over 30 minutes of action, the home side was in all sorts of trouble, trailing the visitors 2-0. Richmond's much celebrated homecoming looked in tatters as a rampant Bergers midfield literally stretched the home side in all directions. Richmond needed a miracle, and it came in the 33rd minute in the form of a faulty fuse, which literally blacked out Heidelbergs' grasp on all three points.

Referee Perry Mur waited patiently for almost an hour before finally calling off the game and deeming a "no result", due to poor flood lighting caused by the faulty fuse.

The thirty odd minute game opened in a frenzied pace, with the sleek new playing surface at Kevin Barlett Reserve, conducive too the quick style of play exhibited by both teams.

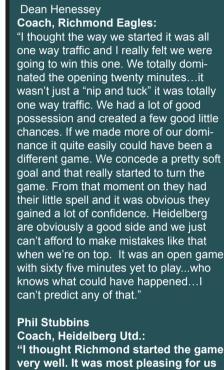
Former Knight, Albert Gjuni signalled an ominous warning to the home side after just seven minutes of play, with a long range strike that tested the guile of Richmonds' Keeper, Nick Crossly. Unfortunately for Crossley, he could not repeat his heroics ten minutes later. A sizzling 25 metre Eric Vassiliades strike skidded passed and caught off guard the hapless Crossley, giving the Bergers the early lead.

The Bergers had the home side rattled and deservedly doubled their lead on the quarter hour mark through Nick Marinos. A well waited through ball by Nick Sabljak split open the Eagles defence. Marinos pounced onto Sabljaks depth pass, instinctively slotting the ball past the oncoming Crossley, giving the Bergers' a commanding 2-0 lead.



Five minutes later the home side were in trouble again, as Nick Sabljak slalomed in behind the Eagles defence, before cutting back a teasing cross that exposed Richmonds baron goal. Fortunately for Richmond, the visitors failed to swoop upon Sabljaks' good work. And lady luck smiled on Richmond again one minute later when the lights went out, much to the frustration for all involved.

By Bruno Zovko



"I thought Richmond started the game very well. It was most pleasing for us that we matched Richmond's endeavour for that opening period. After weathered their initial domination I felt we came then to the fore and slowly got on top. After going 2-0 up it was obviously very pleasing. Regardless of how they work out what is going to happen with the replay, I was particularly very satisfied with the mental improvement from my team. I thought they were great and if we can sustain that input through the course of the year, then I really don't think we're going to have many problems."





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-VODAFOAE-GUP-Round 6





CANNONS MISFIRE AT HOME AGAIN!



ANOTHER LATE EQUALISER DENIES ROYALS CERTAIN VICTORY

Oakleigh Cannons 2 - Essendon Royals 2

Oakleigh Cannons scrambled a late equaliser to draw 2-2 in an entertaining Round 6 **Premier League soccer clash with Essendon** Royals at the Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday night.

The Royals arrived at Jack Edwards on the back of some spirited recent performances belying their lowly position on the ladder. Going into the match as underdogs, they soon found themselves on the receiving end of a Cameron Pino free kick from the right flank, which Oakleigh striker Peter Kakos finished, only for the referee to rule the goal offside.

Kakos's strike partner Esala Masi, then had two excellent chances to score but missed the target on both occasions with just the keeper to beat. Cannons midfielder Anthony Pelikan was the provider on both occasions and his link play together with Bill Damianos, was a feature of Oakleigh's attacking moves in the

For the Royals, their Solomon Islands international Henry Fa'Arodo, currently on loan from A-League club Perth Glory, caught the spectators' eye, with his quicksilver movement and sure touch causing apprehension in the Oakleigh defence each time he took possession. At the other end, Royals' keeper Marko Sutalo left his impression on the game making several excellent saves to keep his side in the contest. One save in particular from Kakos in the 24th minute denied the Cannons a certain goal.

The opening goal of the game came in the 40th

Royals' Henry Fa' Arodo tries a spectacular side volley as keeper Stewart Webster

Cannon's keeper Stuart Webster to give the inside his right hand post. Royals a 1-0 lead at the break.

A Royals' defensive error gifted the Cannons an equaliser early into the second half when Royals' central defender Serdar Pir was involved in a terrible mix up with his keeper allowing Cameron Pino to slip in and score unopposed.

Fa'Arodo was the instigator of the Royals' sec-

introducing substitutes Juan Nilo for the quiet Masi, and George Goutzioulis for defending midfielder Raj Kumar.

Oakleigh pressed forward only for the Royals keeper Sutalo to deny shots by Kakos and Goutzioulis. Although Fa'Arodo was tiring, the Royals showed no sign of retreating into

> and Steve Fitzsimmons driving forward.

sides with a share of the points.

Cannons coach Stuart Munro responded by

a defensive shell, with Schwal

Deep into injury time, and with victory in their hands, Essendon midfielder, Michael Catalano took possession on the left flank of the Royals' forward line. Rather than take the ball to the corner flag to run down the clock, the young midfielder crossed the ball into the Oakleigh box where a turnover occurred.

Nilo took possession in the middle for Oakleigh, sending the ball deep, where Goutzioulis met the cross with a header past Sutalo in off the left hand upright to leave both

By George Stogiannou

Stuart Munro

Coach, Oakleigh Cannons:

"Overall it was a disappointing night whereby nothing seemed to go right for us. We should have had the game wrapped up in the first half but unfortunately we squandered numerous opportunities. I think they were a bit lucky with their first goal when a comedy of errors gifted them the opener...l don't think our 'keeper Stuart Webster will ever concede a goal like that again in his entire life. All credit to Essendon however who were competitive and made life difficult for us. "

Luciano Trani

Coach, Essenon Royals:

"It was a good game. Oakleigh had their opportunities as much as we did. I especially thought we had a good patch in the second half and I was quite pleased with the way we played. Unfortunately we couldn't hold on in stoppage time after being so close to victory. In the balance of play it was probably a fair result, but when you're in front at such a late stage in the game, you should be good enough to hold on for the full result. It was definitely an opportunity lost."

> Man of the Match **Marco Sutalo** (Essendon Royals)





minute, against the run of play, when Royals defender Mile Medjedovic tried a speculative shot from 40 metres and surprised everyone, including himself when the ball 'nutmegged'

ond goal in the 63rd minute, when he earned a free kick 20 metres out. Skipper Nicholas Schwal scored the goal when his strike breached the Cannons' wall beating the keeper



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VODAFOAE-OUP-Round 6





BATTLE OF THE CELLAR-DWELLERS



BOTH SIDES EAGER FOR MORALE BOOSTING WIN

Bulleen Zebras v Preston Lions

The final match of Round 6 looms as a crunch encounter, with Bulleen and Preston occupying the bottom two places of the Vodafone Cup table. The Veneto Club side has not posted a victory since Round 1 against the highflying Frankston Pines, whilst the Vlado Vanis led Preston has failed to a register a victory in Season 2006.

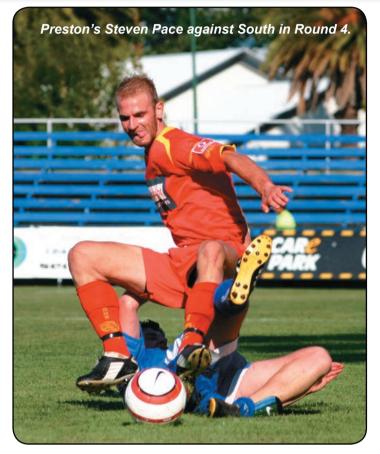
Following a confidence building 1-1 result against reigning premiers Green Gully, the Zebras commenced a sharp descent to the lower reaches of the Vodafone Cup table posting successive 4-1 losses against the might of Heidelberg and the Carl Recchia inspired Fawkner-Whittlesea. The signings of former A-League players Ricky Diaco and Billy Celeski, was expected to halt the Zebras fall from grace but it has thus far proved ineffectual with the Zebras coming off the back of a 1-0 loss to championship contenders Kingston City.

With results expected from Bulleen officials, coach Michael Michala-kopoulos is sure to be under pressure to obtain a result in the coming weeks, and a victory against Preston could be the catalyst the club needs to commence a revival

despite a sluggish start to the season.

The Preston Lions are the only side so far to have failed to record a victory this season. Lions manager Vlado Vanis is also sure to be under the pump in the coming weeks and if his side cannot halt the rot which is threatening to end their finals ambitions barely weeks into the season. Although the loss of club leading scorer John Sapazovski was touted initially to be a loss that could be covered, the Lions have been found wanting up front this year, leading the club to complete the signing of Brazilian striker Carlos Alberto Barreto Macedo, formerly of Second Division side Sobradinho.

With the Brazilian set to make his debut on Monday night, in a coup, the Lions also confirmed the signing of another attacker in the form of former Macedonian international and Red Star player Blaze Georgioski. The mid-week clearance of the two players underlie the clubs ambition to return to the peak of Victorian Football as Preston seeks to rectify the current form slump, which has seen the club lose to fierce rivals South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights, whilst former national league club Sunshine



Georgies inflicted a heavy 4-1 defeat upon the Lions.

In the two previous matches between the struggling sides last season, a draw was recorded in each encounter underlying the evenness of the two sides. With a victory to either club likely to elevate them from the relegation zone, the contest is sure to be hard fought with neither club willing to occupy the unenviable bottom two positions for long.

The mid-week signings of Carlos Albeto Barreto Macedo and Georgioski will strengthen the travelling Lions, leaving the assumption that Preston has the ability and players on hand to record their first victory of 2006.

By Simon Chiarelli

Michael Michalakopoulos Coach, Bulleen Zebras:

"It's a very important match for us and it's shaping up to be a bit of a crunch game. In fact, if you look at where we are on the table we're second last, but we're also on equal points with another four teams and only three points away from being back up there. It's make or break and we really need to go out there and grab maximum points after being on the end of three disappointing results."

Vlado Vanis Coach, Preston Lions:

"We need the points and we definitely have to go out there to win the game. Bulleen are in a similar position to us so I expect an open game from both sides. We are obviously in last position on the table and need to get some momentum happening. It will be tough, but I will be really disappointed if we don't win tonight because I think we've got good players in the squad who just simply need to click and work together to start winning some games."

MONDAY MATCH STATS

Lions Zebras Recent form HOME L·D·W·L L·D·L·W Recent form AWAY L·L·W·D L·D·L·L Next info is based on last 50 matches Home win 33% 43% Home draw 40% 29% 27% 29% Home lost 1.07 per match 1.86 per match Home goals Away win 13% Away draw 31% 38% 38% Away lost Away goals 0.63 per match 1.19 per match Bulleen - Preston L - PAST MATCHES: 14-08-2005 VPL Preston L v Bulleen 0 - 0 09-05-2005 VPL Bulleen v Preston L 1 - 1

MONDAY AIGHT FOOTBALL
BULLEEN ZEBRAS
V
PRESTON LIONS
MONDAY 20TH MARCH
VENETO CLUB
BULLEEN
(MEL REF: 32 D9)
KO 8.15PM

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PROVISIONAL-LEAGUE-ONE-N/W-Fixtures



1 Apr 06 3:00PM Brimbank v Melbourne University Rangers Italo-Australian Social Club

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Laverton Park v Mill Park Laverton Park Reserve

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Hoppers Crossing Doyle Street Reserve

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Elwood City v Melbourne City Elwood Park

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Hume United v Glenroy Laura Douglas Reserve

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Darebin United v Plenty Valley Lions Mayer Park

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Glenroy v Darebin United Strathnaver Reserve

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Melbourne City v Hume United Edwards Reserve

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Elwood City Grange Reserve 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Mill Park v Avondale Heights Findon Reserve

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Brimbank Bundoora Park Pavillion

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Melbourne University Rangers v Laverton Park Princess Park Oval #2

Round 3

22 Apr 06 3:00PM Laverton Park v Brimbank Laverton Park Reserve

22 Apr 06 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Melbourne University Rangers Doyle Street Reserve

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10 Jun 06 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Glenroy Doyle Street Reserve

10 Jun 06 3:00PM Elwood City v Darebin United Elwood Park

10 Jun 06 3:00PM Brimbank v Hoppers Crossing Italo-Australian Social Club

Round 11

17 Jun 06 3:00PM Darebin United v Hume United Mayer Park 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Glenroy v Elwood City Strathnaver Reserve

17 Jun 06 3:00PM Melbourne City v Avondale Heights Edwards Reserve

17 Jun 06 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Laverton Park Grange Reserve

17 Jun 06 3:00PM Mill Park v Brimbank Findon Reserve

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15 Jul 06 3:00PM Laverton Park v Plenty Valley Lions Laverton Park Reserve

15 Jul 06 3:00PM Elwood City v Melbourne University Rangers Elwood Park

15 Jul 06 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Brimbank Doyle Street Reserve

Round 16

22 Jul 06 3:00PM Laverton Park v Avondale Heights Laverton Park Reserve

22 Jul 06 3:00PM Brimbank v Elwood City Italo-Australian Social Club

22 Jul 06 3:00PM Melbourne University Rangers v Hume United Princess Park Oval #2 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Mill Park v Darebin United Findon Reserve

22 Jul 06 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Glenroy Grange Reserve 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Melbourne City Bundoora Park Pavillion

29 Jul 06 3:00PM Melbourne City v Hoppers Crossing Edwards Reserve 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Glenroy v Mill Park Strathnaver Reserve

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29 Jul 06 3:00PM Darebin United v Melbourne University Rangers Mayer Park

29 Jul 06 3:00PM Hume United v Brimbank Laura Douglas Reserve 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Elwood City v Laverton Park Elwood Park

5 Aug 06 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Elwood City Doyle Street Reserve

5 Aug 06 3:00PM Laverton Park v Hume United Laverton Park Reserve

5 Aug 06 3:00PM Brimbank v Darebin United Italo-Australian Social Club

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19 Aug 06 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Mill Park Grange Reserve 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Elwood City v Plenty Valley Lions Elwood Park

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19 Aug 06 3:00PM Glenroy v Brimbank Strathnaver Reserve 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Darebin United v Laverton Park Mayer Park

19 Aug 06 3:00PM Hume United v Avondale Heights Laura Douglas Reserve

26 Aug 06 3:00PM Elwood City v Hume United Elwood Park
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Avondale Heights v Darebin United Doyle Street Reserve
26 Aug 06 3:00PM Laverton Park v Glenroy Laverton Park Reserve

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2 Sep 06 3:00PM Plenty Valley Lions v Hume United Bundoora Park Pavillion

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2 Sep 06 3:00PM Melbourne City v Laverton Park Edwards Reserve

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2 Sep 06 3:00PM Hoppers Crossing v Brimbank Grange Reserve

9 Sep 06 3:00PM Hume United v Darebin United Laura Douglas Reserve

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9 Sep 06 3:00PM Brimbank v Mill Park Italo-Australian Social Club 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Melbourne University Rangers v Plenty Valley Lions Princess Park Oval #2





PROVISIONAL-LEAGUE-ONE-S/E-Fixtures



1 Apr 06 3:00PM Croydon City Arrows v Springvale City Vales Dorset Recreational Reserve

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Monash University v Rowville Eagles Monash University Sports Oval

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Noble Park United v Carrum United Noble Park Secondary College

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Southern Suburbs v Brandon Park Keeley Park

1 Apr 06 3:00PM White Star Dandenong v Riversdale Greaves Reserve

1 Apr 06 3:00PM Doveton v Warragul United Waratah Reserve

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Riversdale v Doveton Frog Hollow Reserve

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Brandon Park v White Star Dandenong Freeway Reserve

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Carrum United v Southern Suburbs Italo-Australian Club 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Rowville Eagles v Noble Park United Park Ridge Reserve

8 Apr 06 3:00PM Warragul United v Croydon City Arrows Baxter Park (Warragul) 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Springvale City Vales v Monash University Ross Reserve

Round 3

22 Apr 06 3:00PM Monash University v Croydon City Arrows Monash University Sports Oval 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Noble Park United v Springvale City Vales Noble Park Secondary College

22 Apr 06 3:00PM Southern Suburbs v Rowville Eagles Keeley Park

22 Apr 06 3:00PM White Star Dandenong v Carrum United Greaves Reserve 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Doveton v Brandon Park Waratah Reserve

22 Apr 06 3:00PM Riversdale v Warragul United Frog Hollow Reserve

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29 Apr 06 3:00PM Carrum United v Doveton Italo-Australian Club

29 Apr 06 3:00PM Rowville Eagles v White Star Dandenong Park Ridge Reserve

29 Apr 06 3:00PM Warragul United v Monash University Baxter Park (Warragul) 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Springvale City Vales v Southern Suburbs Ross Reserve

29 Apr 06 3:00PM Croydon City Arrows v Noble Park United Dorset Recreational Reserve

6 May 06 3:00PM Noble Park United v Monash University Noble Park Secondary College

6 May 06 3:00PM Southern Suburbs v Croydon City Arrows Keeley Park

6 May 06 3:00PM White Star Dandenong v Springvale City Vales Greaves Reserve

6 May 06 3:00PM Doveton v Rowville Eagles Waratah Reserve

6 May 06 3:00PM Riversdale v Carrum United Frog Hollow Reserve

6 May 06 3:00PM Brandon Park v Warragul United Freeway Reserve

Round 6

13 May 06 3:00PM Carrum United v Brandon Park Italo-Australian Club

13 May 06 3:00PM Rowville Eagles v Riversdale Park Ridge Reserve

13 May 06 3:00PM Warragul United v Noble Park United Baxter Park (Warragul)

13 May 06 3:00PM Springvale City Vales v Doveton Ross Reserve

13 May 06 3:00PM Croydon City Arrows v White Star Dandenong Dorset Recreational Reserve

13 May 06 3:00PM Monash University v Southern Suburbs Monash University Sports Oval

20 May 06 3:00PM Southern Suburbs v Noble Park United Keeley Park

20 May 06 3:00PM White Star Dandenong v Monash University Greaves Reserve

20 May 06 3:00PM Doveton v Croydon City Arrows Waratah Reserve 20 May 06 3:00PM Riversdale v Springvale City Vales Frog Hollow Reserve

20 May 06 3:00PM Brandon Park v Rowville Eagles Freeway Reserve

20 May 06 3:00PM Carrum United v Warragul United Italo-Australian Club

Round 8

27 May 06 3:00PM Rowville Eagles v Carrum United Park Ridge Reserve

27 May 06 3:00PM Warragul United v Southern Suburbs Baxter Park (Warragul)

27 May 06 3:00PM Springvale City Vales v Brandon Park Ross Reserve 27 May 06 3:00PM Croydon City Arrows v Riversdale Dorset Recreational Reserve

27 May 06 3:00PM Monash University v Doveton Monash University Sports Oval

27 May 06 3:00PM Noble Park United v White Star Dandenong Noble Park Secondary College

3 Jun 06 3:00PM White Star Dandenong v Southern Suburbs Greaves Reserve

3 Jun 06 3:00PM Doveton v Noble Park United Waratah Reserve 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Riversdale v Monash University Frog Hollow Reserve

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Round 11

0PM Doveton v White Star Dandenong Waratah Reserve

17 Jun 06 3:00PM Riversdale v Southern Suburbs Frog Hollow Reserve 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Brandon Park v Noble Park United Freeway Reserve

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1 Jul 06 3:00PM Doveton v Riversdale Waratah Reserve

1 Jul 06 3:00PM White Star Dandenong v Brandon Park Greaves Reserve

1 Jul 06 3:00PM Southern Suburbs v Carrum United Keeley Park

1 Jul 06 3:00PM Noble Park United v Rowville Eagles Noble Park Secondary College

1 Jul 06 3:00PM Croydon City Arrows v Warragul United Dorset Recreational Reserve 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Monash University v Springvale City Vales Monash University Sports Oval

Round 14

8 Jul 06 3:00PM Croydon City Arrows v Monash University Dorset Recreational Reserve

8 Jul 06 3:00PM Springvale City Vales v Noble Park United Ross Reserve

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15 Jul 06 3:00PM Southern Suburbs v Springvale City Vales Keeley Park

15 Jul 06 3:00PM Noble Park United v Croydon City Arrows Noble Park Secondary College

Round 16

22 Jul 06 3:00PM Monash University v Noble Park United Monash University Sports Oval

22 Jul 06 3:00PM Croydon City Arrows v Southern Suburbs Dorset Recreational Reserve

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NO MATCHES 15/16 April 2006 - Easter Weekend

Catch-Up Round 12/13 August 2006 - FFV will notify clubs playing on this weekend



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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS FC







Issue #7

Front row L to R: Boris Radman, Stefan Piorkowski, Josip Kozic, Davor Filipovic, Josip Biskic (coach) Zlatko Vego (Goalkeepers Coach), Adrian Cagalj (Captain), Dario Matkovic, Hrvoje Matkovic, Luke Slater.

Back row L to R: Mirko "Rus" Rastocic (Gear Steward), Goran Talevski, Craig Elvin, Ivan Klarica, Andrew Barisic, Marco Maisano, Tomislav Milardovic, Stanko Bilic (Club President), Nathan Caldwell, Milan Batur, Neven Antic, Ryan Casey, Davor Filipovic (Team Manager)



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DEUTSCHLAND BOUND!





Back row: Oswaldo Sanchez, Jose Fonseca, Ricardo Osorio, Jaime Lonzano and Pavel Pardo Front row: Luis Perez, Juan Pablo Rodriguez, Mario Mendez, Carlos Salcido, Ramon Morales, Gonzalo Pineda,

MEXICO

Cup ranking: 14th

Coach: Ricardo Lavolpe.

Key players: Rafael Marquez, Jared Borgetti.

World Cup record and best finish:

13th appearance; quarterfinals (1970, 1986).

Last appearance: Second round 2002.

World Cup odds: 50-1.

How qualified:
Second in CONCACAF's final group.

SWEDEN

Cup ranking: 14th

Coach: Lars Lagerback.

Key players:

Zlatan Ibrahimovich, Fredrik Ljungberg, Henrik Larsson.

World Cup record and best finish: 11th appearance; runner-up (1958).

Last appearance: Second round 2002.

World Cup odds: 33-1

How qualified:

One of two best European group runners-up.



Back row: Olof Mellberg, John Elmander, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Petter Hansson, Alexander Ostlund, Kim Kallstrom, Front row: Tobias Linderoth, Andreas Isksson, Christian Wilhelmsson, Henrik Larsson and Erik Edman

KOREA REPUBLIC



Back row: Ahn Jung-hwan (19), Kim Young-chul(5), Kim Dong-jin(3), Choi Jin-cheul(4), Seol Ki-hyeon (9), Lee Woon-jae(1).

Front row: Park Ji-sung (7), Park Chu-young(10), Cho Won-hee(23), Lee Ho(17), Lee Young-pyo(12),

SOUTH KOREA

Cup ranking: 29th

Coach: Dick Advocaat.

Key players: Park Ji-sung, Lee Young-pyo.

World Cup record and best finish:

Seventh appearance; semifinals (2002).

Last appearance: Semifinals 2002.

World Cup odds: 300-1.

How qualified: Second in Asian Group A. TOGO

Cup ranking: 56th

Coach: Stephen Keshi.

Key players: Emmanuel Adebayor, Sheriff Toure.

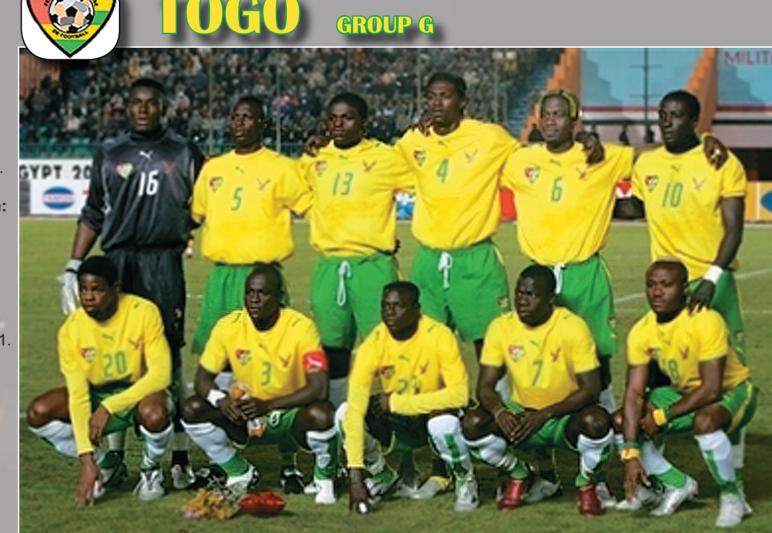
World Cup record and best finish:
First appearance.

Last appearance: None.

World Cup odds: 400-1.

How qualified: Won African Group 1.





Top row: Kossi Agassa (16), Komi Tchangai Massamasso (5), Emmanuel Mathias (13), Emmanuel Sheyi Adebayor (4), Yao Aziawonou (6), Sherif Maman Toure,

Front row: Ludovic Assemossa (20), Abalo Yaovi (3), Kassim Guzayou (23), Moustapha Salifou (7), Yao Senaya (18)

Issue #7

Q. What does a couple of town planners, a wharfie, painter and consultant have in common?



A. They play 'For the Tip'

(5-a-side Indoor Soccer)

'C' Grade Champions 'For the Tip' play at Brimbank Futsal Club. Come and join a great social competition and fun atmosphere to challenge all players at different levels.

VICTORIAN JUNIOR FUTSAL ACADEMY will commence on Saturday 11th of March - 20th of May (REC West)
Great opportunity for young children to learn Futsal from professional coaches and develop their skills for the future. For more information contact the numbers below.





101 Main Road West, St. Albans VIC 3021 Phone: 9367 1633 Fax: 9356 0255 email: vfa@optusnet.com.au

Venue: REC West Recreational Centre, Lily Street, BRAYBROOK

New SeasonCommencing Soon!

6.50pm Kick-Off (Mens)
Grading begins on 9th of March.

Season One begins, March 23 - June 8

Season Two begins, July 6 - October 5

Season Three begins,
November 2 - December 14

*Grading for each season commences two weeks before the opening round.



UORID FOOTB

ARGEN	IITI	A	CL	Al.	JSL	JR/	4
Banfield - Estudi	antes	s I P			1	- 0	
Arg. Juniors - Sa			0		0	-	
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Boca Juniors	9	6	1	2	19	8	19
2 River Plate	9	5	3	1	21	10	18
3 Newell's	9	5	2	2	14	8	17
4 Velez	9	4	4	1	12	7	16
5 Colon	9	4	4	1	12	9	16
6 Independiente	9	4	3	2	12	4	15
7 Gimnasia J	9	5	0	4	10	9	15
8 San Lorenzo	10	4	3	3	9	8	15
9 Olimpo	9	4	2	3	15	9	14
10 Lanus	9	4	2	3	10	9	14
11 Estudiantes LP	10	4	2 2 2	4	14	15	14
12 Banfield	10	4	1	5	14	16	13
13 Arsenal Sarandi	9	3	3	3	8	7	12
14 Gimnasia LP	9	3	2	4	10	10	11
15 Arg. Juniors	10	2	5	3	10	13	11
16 Quilmes	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
17 Rosario	9	1	4	4	4	10	7
18 Tiro Federal	9	2	1	6	9	20	7
19 Instituto	9	1	2	6	5	18	5
20 Racing	9	0	2	7	4	19	2

- 1	Boca Juniors	9	6	1	2	19	8	19
2	River Plate	9	5	3	1	21	10	18
3	Newell's	9	5	2	2	14	8	17
4	Velez	9	4	4	1	12	7	16
5	Colon	9	4	4	1	12	9	16
6	Independiente	9	4	3	2	12	4	15
7	Gimnasia J	9	5	0	4	10	9	15
8	San Lorenzo	10	4	3	3	9	8	15
9	Olimpo	9	4	2 2	3	15	9	14
10	Lanus	9	4	2	3	10	9	14
11	Estudiantes LP	10	4	2	4	14	15	14
12	Banfield	10	4	1	5	14	16	13
13	Arsenal Sarandi	9	3	3	3	8	7	12
14	Gimnasia LP	9	3	3	4	10	10	11
15	Arg. Juniors	10	2	5	3	10	13	11
16	Quilmes	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
17	Rosario	9	1	4	4	4	10	7
18	Tiro Federal	9	2	1	6	9	20	7
19	Instituto	9	1	2	6	5	18	5
20	Racing	9	0	2	7	4	19	2

reviso - Caglia	ari			1	- 2		
ivorno - Juver	itus			1	- 3		
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Juventus	30	24	5	1	60	19	77
2 Milan	29	20	4	5	63	24	64
3 Inter Milan	29	19	5	5	53	22	62
4 Fiorentina	28	17	5	6	48	30	56
5 Roma	29	16	7	6	54	29	55
6 Livorno	30	11	11	8	31	32	44
7 Lazio	29	10	12	7	38	36	42
8 Chievo	29	10	11	8	38	34	4
9 Sampdoria	29	10	7	12	42	38	3
10 Palermo	29	9	10	10	38	42	37
11 Ascoli	29	8	12	9	31	34	3
12 Siena	29	9	8	12	34	43	3
13 Parma	29	8	8	13	33	48	3
14 Reggina	29	8	7	14	29	47	3
15 Cagliari	29	7	9	13	32	43	3
16 Udinese	29	7	7	15	28	44	2
17 Messina	29	5	12	12	27	40	2
18 Empoli	29	7	5	17	30	51	2
19 Lecce	29	4	6	19	20	46	1
20 Treviso	30	2	9	19	17	44	15

CROATI	AN	FIR	RST	ΓD	IVI:	SIC	N
Dinamo Zagreb	- Kan	nen			2	- 0	
Osijek - Varteks					0	- 2	
Rijeka - Hajduk					1	- 1	
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Dinamo Zagreb	22	18	2	2	61	11	56
2 Rijeka	22	14	3	5	42	28	45
3 Osijek	22	10	4	8	25	32	34
4 Varteks	22	10	1	11	34	35	31
5 Hajduk	22	7	8	7	28	21	29
6 Kamen	22	8	5	9	26	30	29
7 Pula SC	22	8	4	10	29	26	28
8 Zagreb	22	8	3	11	19	27	27
9 Cibalia	22	7	5	10	24	35	26
10 Slaven	22	5	7	10	29	38	22
11 Inter Zaprešic	22	6	4	12	17	34	22
12 Medimurje	22	5	6	11	26	43	21

Aberdeen - Liv			3 - ()			
Kilmarnock - Fa	alkirk					2 - 1	1
Motherwell - Hi	2 - 2						
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Celtic	29	23	4	2	79	29	73
2 Hearts	29	17	7	5	57	24	58
3 Rangers	29	15	7	7	52	32	52
4 Kilmarnock	30	14	8	8	55	48	50
5 Hibernian	30	15	4	11	54	41	49
6 Aberdeen	30	10	11	9	35	34	41
7 Inverness	29	9	13	7	41	33	40
8 Motherwell	30	11	7	12	46	51	40
9 Dundee United	30	7	10	13	36	51	31
10 Dunfermline	30	5	7	18	25	57	22
11 Falkirk	30	5	6	19	28	58	21
12 Livingston	30	2	6	22	17	67	12

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

SCOTTI	SH	Dľ	VIS	310	N (INC	
Airdrie United - H	amil	ton				0 -	0
Brechin - Ross Co	ount	V				3 -	3
Clyde - St. Mirren						0 -	1
Dundee FC - St. v	Johr	ston	е			0 -	1
Queen of the Sou	ıth -	Strar	raeı	-		1 -	0
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 St. Mirren	29	18	7	4	42	23	61
2 St. Johnstone	30	14	11	5	49	28	53
3 Ross County	29	14	10	5	45	33	52
4 Clyde	30	12	9	9	47	37	45
5 Hamilton	29	11	12	6	45	36	45
6 Dundee FC	30	8	14	8	38	44	38
7 Airdrie United	30	9	10	11	47	34	37
8 Queen of the South	30	5	9	16	23	47	24
9 Stranraer	28	4	11	13	25	41	23
10 Brechin	29	1	9	19	23	61	12

SCOTT	SH	DIN	VIS	IO	N	WC	J
Alloa - Morton						0	- 0
Ayr United - Raith	Rovers	S				0	- 0
Dumbarton - Forfa	r					0	- 0
Partick Thistle - Gr	retna					0	- 2
Peterhead - Stirlin	g Albio	n				2	- 0
	Р	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Gretna	28	22	4	2	76	21	70
2 Morton	29	17	6	6	48	26	57
3 Peterhead	29	14	5	10	44	39	47
4 Partick Thistle	29	13	8	8	48	47	47
5 Stirling Albion	27	11	5	11	43	47	38
6 Raith Rovers	28	9	7	12	36	43	34
7 Forfar	27	9	2	16	33	42	29
8 Ayr United	29	6	11	12	39	50	29
9 Dumbarton	28	7	4	17	33	44	25
10 Alloa	28	4	6	18	28	69	18

CONTROLL DIVIDION TWO

GERM	AN	вι	JNE	DE	SLI	GΑ	\
Nurnberg - Werd	er B	reme	n		3	- 1	
Leverkusen - Ma					1	- 2	
		-				_	
Monchengladbad	n - 8	stuttg	jarτ		1	- 1	
Dortmund - Kaise	ersla	utern	1		2	- 1	
Frankfurt - MSV	Duis	hura			5	- 2	
		_					
Hannover 96 - 1.						- 0	
Wolfsburg - Ham	burg	er S۱	V		0	- 1	
	P	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Bayern Munchen	25	18	5	2	48	19	59
2 Hamburger SV	26	17	5	4	41	18	56
3 Schalke 04	25	14	9	2	37	18	51
4 Werder Bremen	26	15	5	6	56	32	50
5 Stuttgart	26	7	15	4	28	23	36
6 Hannover 96	26	7	13	6	35	31	34
7 Dortmund	26	8	10	8	31	30	34
8 Monchengladbach	26	8	10	8	31	33	34
9 Hertha BSC	25	8	9	8	37	35	33
10 Leverkusen	26	8	8	10	42	41	32
11 Arminia Bielefeld	25	8	6	11	27	34	30
12 Nurnberg	26	8	6	12	33	41	30
13 Frankfurt	26	8	5	13	36	43	29
14 Mainz 05	26	7	6	13	38	40	27
15 Wolfsburg	26	6	9	11	25	41	27
16 Kaiserslautern	26	6	6	14	35	56	24
17 MSV Duisburg	26	4	9	13	25	48	21

17 MSV Duisburg	26	4	9	13	25	48	21
18 1.FC Koln	26	4	6	16	35	57	18
GRI	EEK	(K/	lΤ	GC	RI	Ą	
Xanthi - Olympi	iakos					1	l - 0
Kallithea - ÁEK		าร				1	l - 4
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Olympiakos	24	21	0	3	52	15	63
2 AEK Athens	24	17	3	4	34	18	54
3 Panathinaikos	23	16	3	4	39	17	51
4 Xanthi	24	11	5	8	26	22	38
5 Iraklis	23	11	4	8	28	23	37
6 Larisa	23	9	6	8	28	28	33
7 Atromitos/H.	23	9	5	9	25	24	32
8 PAOK	23	8	7	8	31	24	31
9 Aigaleo	23	7	8	8	17	22	29
10 Kalamaria	23	7	7	9	24	29	28
11 Ionikos	23	6	9	8	30	33	27
12 Levadiakos	23	5	6	12	15	26	21
13 OFI	23	4	8	11	14	28	20
14 Panionios	23	5	4	14	21	40	19
15 Akratitos	23	4	4	15	16	33	16
10 Aniatitos		3	7	14	22	40	16

C+	urm - SV Rie					GU 1 - 0		
						2 - 0		
	ol - Mattersl							
Si	ıperfund - G	AK		,	1 - 0			
	•	-	***			01	0	
	Team	T	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	P
1	Austria Wien	26	15	6	5	36	19	51
2	Salzburg	26	14	2	10	38	31	44
3	GAK	26	11	5	10	36	28	38
4	Rapid Wien	26	10	8	8	39	32	38
5	Superfund	27	10	8	9	29	25	38
6	Tirol	27	9	9	9	32	37	36
7	SV Ried	26	8	11	7	34	32	35
8	Sturm	27	8	10	9	33	35	34
9	Mattersburg	26	7	5	14	28	44	26
10	Admira	25	5	4	16	28	50	19

	karagucu - Fo Inisaspor - De					_	l - 4 l - 2	
		Р	w.	D	1	GF	GA	P
1	Fenerbahçe	24	17	5	2	60	23	5
2	Galatasaray	23	17	4	2	54	22	5
3	Kayserispor	23	12	4	7	42	29	4
4	Gençlerbirligi	24	10	8	6	35	22	3
5	Besiktas	23	10	6	7	36	26	3
6	Trabzonspor	23	10	6	7	30	30	3
7	Sivasspor	23	7	10	6	23	23	3
8	Konyaspor	24	8	7	9	32	33	3
9	Erciyesspor	24	7	10	7	25	31	3
10	Manisaspor	24	8	6	10	34	33	3
11	Ankaragucu	24	6	9	9	29	30	2
12	Rizespor	24	6	9	9	20	28	2
13	Ankaraspor	23	5	10	8	30	35	2
14	Gaziantepspor	24	6	7	11	25	41	2
15	Denizlispor	23	6	6	11	24	32	2
16	Samsunspor	23	5	5	13	33	49	2
17	Malatyaspor	23	4	8	11	18	35	2
18	Diyarbakirspor	23	5	4	14	21	49	1

88C 28								
MACE	DO	NIA	N	LE	AG	UE		
Stip - Vlazrimi						- 1		
Shkendija - Cen		rnica				- 0		
Sileks - Pobeda					_	- 2		
Rabotnicki - Var	dar				1	- 0		
Makedonija - Be	elasica	а			1	- 0		
Baskimi - Renov				3 - 2				
Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt	
1 Rabotnicki	20	14	5	1	46	18	47	
2 Vardar	20	13	3	4	24	10	42	
3 Makedonija	20	13	2	5	31	16	41	
4 Pobeda	20	9	6	5	38	27	33	
5 Shkendija	20	10	1	9	29	30	31	
6 Baskimi	20	9	3	8	30	28	30	
7 Vlazrimi	20	8	3	9	26	26	27	
8 Sileks	20	5	7	8	28	37	22	
9 Stip	20	7	1	12	26	37	22	
10 Cementarnica	20	5	4	11	25	35	19	
11 Renova	20	5	4	11	25	35	19	
12 Belasica	20	2	1	17	13	42	7	

СН	ILE	ΑN	Ц	EΑ	GU	E	
U. Catolica - La Serena 2 - 0							
	P	w	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 A. Italiano	7	6	1	0	19	6	19
2 U. Catolica	8	5	2	1	15	8	17
3 U. de Chile	7	5	2	0	13	8	17
4 Colo Colo	6	4	1	1	20	10	13
5 Huachipato	7	4	1	2	13	8	13
6 Cobreloa	6	3	1	2	15	11	10
7 U.Concepcion	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
8 Cobresal	7	2	4	1	11	11	10
9 Palestino	7	3	0	4	13	14	9
10 La Serena	7	2	2	3	12	11	8
11 Puerto Montt	7	2	1	4	11	12	7
12 Rangers Talca	7	2	1	4	11	15	7
13 Everton CD	6	2	. 1	3	6	10	7
14 S. Morning	7	1	3	3	9	12	6
15 U. Espanola	6	2	0	4	7	10	6
16 Coquimbo	7	1	3	3	8	12	6
17 Wanderers	6	1	2	3	3	11	5
18 Antofagasta	7	1	1	5	8	16	4
19 O'Higgins	7	1	1	5	3	13	4
20 D. Concepcion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ENGLI	SH	PR	ΕN	ΠE	RS	HIF	•
Arsenal - Charlt	on				3	- 0	
Birmingham - To	ottenh	am			0	- 2	
•	Blackburn - M'brough						
Bolton - Sunder	land				2	- 0	
Everton - Aston	Villa				4 - 1		
Manchester C -	Wiga	n			0 - 1		
West Bromwich	_				1	- 2	
West Ham - Por					2	- 4	
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	
1 Chelsea	29	24	3	2	58	18	
2 Manchester U	29	19	6	4	58	29	
3 Liverpool 30 17 7 6						20	

		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1	Chelsea	29	24	3	2	58	18	75
2	Manchester U	29	19	6	4	58	29	63
3	Liverpool	30	17	7	6	39	20	58
4	Tottenham	30	14	10	6	43	28	52
5	Arsenal	30	15	5	10	48	23	50
6	Blackburn	30	15	4	11	41	36	49
7	Bolton	28	13	9	6	39	28	48
8	Wigan	30	14	4	12	35	36	46
9	Everton	30	13	4	13	28	38	43
10	West Ham	29	12	6	11	44	44	42
11	Manchester C	30	12	4	14	39	35	40
12	Newcastle	29	11	6	12	29	32	39
13	Charlton	30	11	6	13	34	41	39
14	Aston Villa	30	8	10	12	34	41	34
15	Middlesbrough	29	9	7	13	39	49	34
16	Fulham	30	9	5	16	39	51	32
17	West Bromwich	30	7	6	17	27	45	27
18	Birmingham	29	6	6	17	23	41	24
19	Portsmouth	30	6	6	18	24	51	24
20	Sunderland	30	2	4	24	19	54	10

ENGLISH CHAMPIO	NSHIF
Coventry - Leeds	1 - 1
C Palace - Ipswich	2 - 2
Hull - Crewe	1 - 0
Luton - Derby	1 - 0
Millwall - Leicester	0 - 1
Norwich - Sheffield U	2 - 1
Plymouth - Cardiff	0 - 1
Queens PR - Brighton	1 - 1
Reading - Wolverhampton	1 - 1
Sheffield W - Preston	2 - 0
Stoke - Burnley	1 - 0

		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1	Reading	39	27	10	2	81	25	91
2	Sheffield U	39	22	9	8	65	41	75
3	Leeds	38	20	11	7	54	32	71
4	Watford	38	19	12	7	67	43	69
5	Crystal Palace	38	18	10	10	58	39	64
6	Preston	38	14	18	6	48	28	60
7	Wolverhampton	39	14	17	8	43	31	59
8	Cardiff	39	16	10	13	52	45	58
9	Norwich	39	15	8	16	49	55	53
10	Coventry	39	13	13	13	52	55	52
11	Ipswich	39	13	13	13	46	54	52
12	Luton	39	15	6	18	58	60	51
13	Queens PR	38	12	12	14	43	52	48
14	Plymouth	39	11	14	14	33	41	47
15	Stoke	38	14	5	19	40	53	47
16	Leicester	39	11	13	15	44	51	46
17	Hull	39	11	11	17	43	49	44
18	Burnley	38	12	7	19	41	51	43
19	Southampton	37	8	18	11	35	38	42
20	Derby	39	8	18	13	48	55	42
21	Sheffield W	39	9	11	19	30	48	38
22	Millwall	39	6	15	18	29	52	33
23	Brighton	39	5	16	18	33	59	31
24		38	5	13	20	42	77	28

SPAIN PRIMERA	L LIGA
Real Sociedad - Barcelona	0 - 2
Getafe - Deportivo	1 - 2

		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1	Barcelona	28	20	4	4	66	25	64
2	Real Madrid	27	16	4	7	50	26	52
3	Valencia	27	14	10	3	37	21	52
4	Osasuna	27	15	4	8	35	30	49
5	Celta	27	14	3	10	29	27	45
6	Sevilla	27	13	5	9	35	29	44
7	Villarreal	27	11	10	6	37	26	43
8	Deportivo	28	12	7	9	38	32	43
9	Atletico	27	11	8	8	38	26	41
10	Getafe	28	10	7	11	37	36	37
11	Zaragoza	27	8	12	7	37	37	36
12	Espanyol	27	8	6	13	27	41	30
13	Racing	27	6	11	10	24	31	29
14	Real Sociedad	28	8	4	16	35	53	28
15	Mallorca	27	6	9	12	27	42	27
16	Athletic	27	6	8	13	29	37	26
17	Alaves	27	6	8	13	30	45	26
18	Betis	27	6	8	13	24	39	26
19	Cadiz	27	6	7	14	20	36	25
20	Malaga	27	5	7	15	29	45	22

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Biackpool - Por	t vale						1 - 0
Bournemouth -	Yeovi	I					1 - 0
Bradford - Oldham							
Bristol City - Gillingham							
Chesterfield - S							1 - 2
Colchester - Sw	/indor	1 Tow	'n				1 - 0
Doncaster - Not	ttingh	am					1 - 2
Hartlepool - Bar	_						1 - 1
•							
Huddersfield - F							
Milton Keynes -	Sout	hend				:	2 - 1
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Southend	38	20	10		61	35	70
2 Brentford	36	18	10	8	58	39	64
3 Huddersfield	38	17	13	8	64	50	64
4 Swansea	38	16	15	7	67	44	63
5 Colchester	36	18	8	10	48	35	62
6 Barnsley	38	16	13	9	53	38	61
7 Oldham	38	17	8	13	50	48	59
8 Nottingham	38	14	10	14	53	45	52
9 Chesterfield	38	13	12	13	55	55	51
10 Doncaster	37	14	8	15	45	45	50
11 Scunthorpe	38	13	11	14	59	63	50
12 Bristol City	38	13	10	15	52	54	49
13 Tranmere	38	11	14	13	43	40	47
14 Port Vale	37	13	8	16	37	43	47
15 Bradford	37	10	15	12	38	40	45
16 Bournemouth	37	11	12	14	40	44	45
17 Blackpool	37	10	14	13	46	52	44
18 Hartlepool	37	10	13	14	35	44	43
19 Walsall	36	10	12	14	41	53	42
20 Yeovil	37	11	9	17	39	51	42
21 Gillingham	37	10	11	16	33	52	41
22 Rotherham	38	9	13	16	41	53	40
23 Swindon Town	38	9	12	17	38	56	39
24 Milton Keynes	36	8	13	15	35	52	37

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISI	\sim

Boston - Lincoln C	2 - 1
Chester - Cheltenham	0 - 1
Darlington - Carlisle	0 - 5
Grimsby - Bury	2 - 1
Mansfield - Northampton	1 - 0
Notts County - Oxford Utd	0 - 0
Peterborough - Barnet	2 - 2
Rochdale - Wrexham	0 - 1
Shrewsbury - Bristol Rovers	1 - 0
Stockport - Macclesfield	2 - 0
Wycombe - Torquay	0 - 1
Rushden & D - Leyton Orient	1 - 0

		P	VV	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1	Carlisle	37	20	8	9	71	35	68
2	Grimsby	37	20	7	10	56	33	67
3	Wycombe	38	16	17	5	65	44	65
4	Leyton Orient	38	17	12	9	56	46	63
5	Northampton	37	15	15	7	49	33	60
6	Cheltenham	37	15	12	10	47	42	57
7	Peterborough	38	15	11	12	50	38	56
8	Lincoln C	37	12	17	8	50	44	53
9	Wrexham	36	13	11	12	51	40	50
10	Bristol Rovers	38	14	8	16	48	57	50
11	Darlington	37	12	13	12	45	42	49
12	Mansfield	38	12	12	14	56	55	48
13	Shrewsbury	38	12	12	14	44	46	48
14	Boston	36	11	15	10	40	46	48
15	Notts County	38	12	12	14	41	50	48
16	Rochdale	35	12	8	15	54	55	44
17	Stockport	38	9	16	13	49	66	43
18	Macclesfield	37	9	15	13	48	59	42
19	Oxford Utd	37	9	14	14	35	46	41
20	Barnet	37	8	15	14	36	50	39
21	Torquay	38	9	12	17	42	60	39
22	Bury	36	9	11	16	34	47	38
23	Rushden & D	38	9	11	18	37	61	38
24	Chester	36	9	10	17	43	52	37

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Ajaccio - Monaco			1 - 0							
Le Mans - Nantes				0 - 0						
Metz - Rennes	Metz - Rennes				0 - 1					
			0 - 4							
Sochaux - Lyon			• .							
Toulouse - Lens	Toulouse - Lens				1 - 1					
Troyes - Bordeaux Nice - Nancy				1 - 1						
				1 - 0						
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt			
1 Lyon	30	20	8	2	55	22	68			
2 Bordeaux	30	15	12	3	32	16	57			
3 Lille	30	14	9	7	42	20	51			
4 Auxerre	30	15	5	10	38	28	50			
5 Marseille	30	13	8	9	29	28	47			
6 Rennes	31	15	2	14	39	43	47			
7 Lens	31	10	16	5	37	27	46			
8 Le Mans	31	13	7	11	29	25	46			
9 Paris SG	30	11	10	9	32	27	43			
10 Nice	31	11	10	10	23	24	43			
11 Nancy	31	11	8	12	29	25	41			
12 Monaco	30	11	7	12	31	27	40			
13 Saint Etienne	30	10	10	10	25	29	40			
14 Nantes	31	9	10	12	30	31	37			
15 Toulouse	31	9	9	13	28	36	36			
16 Sochaux	30	8	9	13	24	36	33			
17 Troyes	31	6	11	14	25	38	29			
18 Ajaccio	31	5	9	17	18	40	24			
19 Strasbourg	30	4	11	15	24	40	23			
20 Metz	31	4	11	16	21	49	23			

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Contact the office direct on 9645 1440



Middlesborough's erratic season has included a 4-1 win over Manchester United, a miserable 7-0 loss to Arsenal, a rancorous 4-0 home defeat by Aston Villa, and an incredible 3-0 win over the league leaders, Chelsea. Up until last month there was talk of relegation and managerial dismissals, now Boro are looking forward to their eighth successive Premiership season and two winnable cup quarter-finals.

The Middlesborough chairman Steve Gibson has always insisted that their present manager Steve McClaren remains the best man to manage his club. He has also backed him to be promoted within the England camp, where he is currently Sven Gorran Eriksson's assistant, and to become the next England manager.

In May 2001, Steve McClaren left Sir Alex Fergusson's side as Manchester United Assistant Coach to manage Middlesborough. During his five seasons in charge, Boro has remained in the top flight, won the Carling Cup, and got into Europe the last two years running. They are currently in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup playing Charlton this week, in a fixture that they could win, and more significantly have just secured their spot in the last eight of the Uefa Cup.

Before McClaren took the managerial reigns, the closest the Boro fans got to cup success was in 1997, when Bryan Robson took the team to Wembley twice in the finals of the FA Cup and League Cup, but lost both. The prospect of cup glory soon diminished when the club was relegated from the Premiership with 39 points. Robson's reign was one of 'yo-yoing' between promotion and relegation before being replaced by Terry Venables in December 2000, who had managed to save the club from relegation with 42 points.

Last week Middlesbrough rode their luck against Roma in

the Uefa Cup losing the last leg 2-1, but winning on the away-goals rule. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's may have sealed the aggregate lead, but it was Mark Schwarzer second half saves that kept them in the match

The victory was marred when Boro fans were stabbed ahead of the clash in the Italian capital. Police said the attack came from an "organised gang of Italian thugs". Fifteen fans required hospital treatment for a variety of wounds.

Middlesborough have been given a favourable draw and are now favourites for lifting their first European trophy. They will face Switzerland's FC Basle in the quarter-final, who beat Strasbourg and Monaco in the knockout phase of the Uefa Cup. Basle are coached by former Spurs boss Christian Gross. Gross may have been deemed a failure as Tottenham manager but he is a revered figure in Switzerland and his team is currently seven points clear of FC Zurich at the top of the Swiss league.

If Middlesborough win, they will play Rapid Bucharest or neighbours Steaua Bucharest in the last four. Seville face FC Zenit St Petersburg and Levski Sofia play favourites Schalke 04 in the other quarter-finals.

McClaren can barely have dreamt of such cup success in January when he was tipped for dismissal and Boro dallied with the relegation zone. Now a trophy-winning run-in would also re-elevate McClaren's name in the England manager beauty contest.

By Richard Sucksmith



Steve McClaren, looking even more like an England manager

UK FOOTBALL WRAP

United solidify second place with West Brom victory

Written by: Stephen Sharp
Manchester United consolidated their
second place spot in the English Premier
League on Saturday as they saw off West
Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns. Elsewhere, Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal and
Bolton all won in their quest for the final
Champions League spot.

West Bromwich Albion -Manchester United 1-2

Favored in the lineup over Ruud van Nistelrooy, French striker Louis Saha struck twice to guide United past West Brom on Saturday.

After the first quarter-hour was played, an unmarked Saha headed home a corner kick from skipper Ryan Giggs and, after some spells of nice play by the Baggies, Saha got his second in the 64th minute after being put through on goal by Cristiano Ronaldo.

Nathan Ellington revived West Brom's hopes with a goal in the 78th minute, but the home side never came close to challenging United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar after that.

Birmingham City -Tottenham Hotspur 0-2

After Arsenal had earlier snuck into fourth place, Spurs took back their spot thanks in part to Aaron Lennon's first Tottenham goal.

Lennon fired the visitors in front on 65 minutes as he struck home cross by

striker Jermain Defoe, and Republic of Ireland captain Robbie Keane doubled the advantage of the relegation-worried Blues in the 77th minute when he tapped in from another Defoe cross.

$Ar senal - Charlton \ Athletic \ 3-0$

Robert Pires gave Arsenal the lead on 13 minutes after converting a nice pass from Thierry Henry and Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor doubled the advantage in the 32nd minute after being gifted a chance by Hermann Hreidarsson's slip.

The match was then over just four minutes after the restart when Alexander Hleb hit a thumping volley and it could have been four if Pires' shot later on hadn't hit the goalpost.

Bolton Wanderers - Sunderland 2-0

Bottom side Sunderland held Bolton scoreless throughout the first half, but Kevin Davies finally got the Trotters on the scoreboard in the 47th minute with a pinpoint header off of Stelios Giannakopoulos' cross.

The Black Cats were rarely a threat to Bolton and the home side added a second goal with five minutes to play as Kevin Nolan put in a rebound after Sunderland goalkeeper Kelvin Davis made a fine save off of a Gary Speed shot.

Blackburn Rovers - Middlesbrough 3-2

Perhaps a little worn out from their progression in the UEFA Cup over Roma, Middlesbrough stumbled in the Premiership with a

loss away to ten-man Blackburn.

Craig Bellamy fired the home side into the lead after 11 minutes with a brilliant drive that eluded goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, but Mark Viduka pulled the Teessiders level just five minutes later.

Blackburn retook the lead in the 28th minute after Morten Gamst Pedersen's great free kick, but the match swung in favor of the visitors when Blackburn's Robbie Savage was sent off in the 54th minute after receiving two quick bookings.

Fabio Rochemback leveled for Boro just eight minutes after the dismissal with a shot from just inside the penalty area, but Bellamy's second of the match in the 68th minute with a brilliant strike that left Schwarzer with no chance.

Everton - Aston Villa 4-1

Everton continued their push for a spot in Europe as they thrashed Aston Villa at Goodison Park thanks in part to a Tim Cahill brace.

James McFadden fired the Toffees in front after just 14 minutes with a shot from just outside the area and Australia international Cahill put in a rebound just eight minutes later after McFadden had a shot come back off the post.

Leon Osman made it 3-0 to the home side just before the interval after putting in a perfect cross from Mikel Arteta, but Gabriel Agbonlahor pulled a goal back after Everton goalkeeper Richard Wright's gaffe.

The three-goal lead was restored by McFadden just before the end to send Everton to ninth in the Premiership after their abysmal start to the season.

Manchester City - Wigan Athletic 0-1

Wigan also kept up their charge for a European berth in their first Premiership season as Lee McCulloch's goal was all the Latics needed to see of Manchester City.

The lone goal of the match came after 55 minutes had been played when McCulloch headed home a corner kick by Jimmy Bullard after a howler by City goalkeeer David James, who conceded the corner after misplaying a backpass.

West Ham United - Portsmouth 2-4

Portsmouth continued their quest to avoid relegation from the Premiership after disposing of West Ham at Upton Park on Saturday

Lomana Lua-Lua put Pompey in front after 19 minute with a finish off of Matthew Taylor's cross and Sean Davis quickly made it 2-0 to the visitors when the Hammers failed to clear a cross by Brian Priske, allowing Davis to fire home.

It got worse for the home side three minutes before half-time when Pedro Mendes hit a cracker from over 25 yards out that left goalkeeper Jimmy Walker helpless

Teddy Sheringham pulled a goal back for the Hammers on 69 minutes on a rebound, but Svetoslav Todorov's goal eight minutes later restored Pompey's three-goal cushion. Yossi Benayoun added a consolation for the Hammers with five minutes to play.

Source: Soccer Way

Monday 20 March

WORLD FOOTBALL

ITALY

Juventus too strong for Livorno

Written by: Jonathan Roorda

Serie A leaders Juventus made no mistakes on Saturday and defeated Livorno, while Cagliari earned three points at last-placed Treviso.



Livorno - Juventus 1-3

But the win did not come without a fight for Juve, as David Trezeguet's 3rd-minute opening goal was cancelled out by Marc Pfertzel in the 52nd.

But Livorno did not get much time to celebrate their goal as 'Trez' restored Juve's lead within the minute. Alessandro Del Piero added a security goal in added time.

Treviso - Cagliari 1-2

Mauro Esposito opened the score for Cagliari after eleven minutes, but Walter Baseggio equalized thirteen minutes later.

But Cagliari would take the victory, as David Suazo converted a penalty kick in the 76th minute. The guests did to have to survive a final phase with only ten players, following Daniele Conti's red card in the 79th minute.

FRANCE

Lyon close to Ligue 1 title

Written by: Jonathan Roorda

Olympique de Lyon have practically secured the French title following a 0-4 win at Sochaux while main rivals Bordeaux were held to a draw at Troyes.

Sochaux - Lyon 0-4

Sylvain Wiltord put Lyon in the lead after 26 minutes, and Benoit Pedretti added another, just before the break. Wiltord then went on to score for 0-3 in the 52nd minute and Florent Malouda netted the fourth in the 57th.

Troyes - Bordeaux 1-1

Bordeaux, second in the Ligue 1, needed thirty minutes to break the deadlock through Jean-Claude Darcheville but 17th-placed Troyes levelled with a goal from Benjamin Nivet in the 43rd minute.

Metz - Rennes 0-1

Rennes needed just one goal to earn three points at Metz. The decider came from Yoann Gourcuff with 27 minutes on the clock.

Toulouse - Lens 1-1

Fode Mansare put Toulouse in the lead after 28 minutes, but the score was levelled by a goal from Pierre-Alain Frau in the 67th minute.

Le Mans - Nantes 0-0

No goals were scored at Le Mans versus Nantes, due to which Le Mans lose touch with the spots that give access to European football for next season.

Nice - Nancy 1-0

Nancy had a disadvantage in the second half, following a red card for Andre Luiz in the 45th minute, and the hosts took advantage in the 56th minute when Bakary Kone scored the only goal.

Ajaccio - Monaco 1-0

AS Monaco continue to disappoint, and relegation candidates Ajaccio managed to leave the last position thanks to a 1-0 victory. The deciding goal came from Moussa N'Diaye in the 11th minute.

GERMANY

Hamburg close gap on Bayern

Written by: Stephen Sharp

Hamburg closed the gap on Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich to three points on Saturday as they secured a narrow victory away to Wolfsburg.

Wolfsburg - Hamburg 0-1

Despite being eliminated from the UEFA Cup on Wednesday at the hands of Romanian side Rapid Bucuresti, Hamburg piled the pressure idle Bayern when Benjamin Lauth found the back of the net for the visitors on 21 minutes.

Bayern play on Sunday at home against third-placed Schalke.

Nürnberg - Werder Bremen 3-1

Nürnberg won their third straight league encounter as they beat a suddenly cold Werder Bremen club at Frankenstadion.

Robert Vittek fired the home side into the lead in the 21st minute and Markus Schroth extended the advantage with nine minutes to play in the second half. After Miroslav Klose pulled a goal back for the visitors, Vittek bagged his second of the game in the 69th minute to secure the full three points.

Borussia Mönchengladbach - Stuttgart 1-1

Stuttgart played out their 15th draw in 26 league tilts this season after coming from a goal behind to share the spoils with Gladbach.

Milan Fukal had given the home side the lead in the 69th minute, but Cacau pulled Stuttgart level just six minutes later to send his team to five matches unbeaten.

Hannover - Köln 1-0

Hannover's assault on the European places continued as they jumped to sixth in the table with a narrow victory over bottom side Köln.

A 39th-minute goal by Vahid Hashemian was all Hannover needed to take all three points.

Borussia Dortmund - Kaiserslautern 2-1

Dortmund are level on points with Hannover and Gladbach, but second out of the bunch on goal difference following a victory over relegation-threatened Kaiserslautern.

Dedé put the home side in front in

the 25th minute, but Ervin Skela canceled out that effort just before the half-time whistle. Florian Kringe, though, restored Dortmund's lead with the winner on 64 minutes.

Eintracht Frankfurt - Duisburg 5-2

Another side in danger of being relegated, Duisburg, did nothing to help themselves as they were soundly beaten at Commerzbank Arena by Frankfurt, thanks in part to a hattrick by Ioannis Amanatidis.

Amanatidis put Frankfurt in front inside of the first minute and Benjamin Kohler doubled the lead just ten minutes later. Amanatidis' second goal just two minutes later made it 3-0 to the home side before Adam Bodzek and Klemen Lavric pulled back goals for Duisburg to cut the lead to 3-2 at half-time.

Amanatidis completed his treble in the 57th minute and Francisco Copado's penalty secured the result. Duisburg finished with ten men after Uwe Mohrle was sent off in the 85th minute.

Bayer Leverkusen - Mainz 1-2

Mainz got three big points to pull themselves only slightly clear of the drop zone after a Mohamed Zidan double lifted them to victory at Bayer Leverkusen.

Zidan gave Mainz the lead with a goal in the 34th minute and then put them up two a half-hour later. Despite Paul Freier getting a goal back for Leverkusen with five minutes left, the home side got no closer and dipped into the bottom half of the table.

UEFA CUP

UEFA Cup quarter-final draw

Written by: Stephen Sharp

The draw for the final eight of the UEFA Cup produced an intriguing matchup as Romanian rivals Steaua and Rapid were paired with each other.

The two Bucharest city rivals are certain to fill the stadiums for what should be two great matches between two incredibly hot teams in Europe. Rapid, who knocked out Hamburg, will play the first leg at home.

Quarter-final ties

Sevilla (ESP) vs. St. Petersburg (RUS) Basel (SUI) vs. Middlesbrough (ENG) Rapid (ROM) vs. Steaua (ROM) Levski Sofia (BUL) vs. Schalke (GER)

Semi-final pairings

Levski/Schalke vs. Sevilla/Zenit Rapid/Steaua vs. Basel/Middlesbrough

UEFA Cup Final

10 May 2006 - Philips Stadion, Eindhoven

Moratti: Ronaldo return to Inter possible

Written by: Francisco Barreto Inter Milan owner Massimo Moratti has indicated the door would be open for Real Madrid's 29-year-old striker Ronaldo to return to the San Siro.

'If he is still strong, athletically

and mentally, and we believe he can play well with (striker) Adriano, we will think about it,' Moratti was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Friday.

It has been widely speculated that Ronaldo will be leaving Real in the summer. Reports have linked Ronaldo with a return to Brazil, but Inter remain interested in securing his services - as do their city rivals AC Milan.

Ronaldo played for Inter for five years before leaving for Madrid, with a large segment of the supporters feeling that the Brazilian betrayed the club. Banners displayed at the stadium warn Ronald of returning, but Moratti holds no ill will towards him.

'It's a practical and sporting question, not an emotional one,' he said.

'Besides, I'm not a man that holds a grudge and I've always liked Ronaldo personally. I've never forgotten the past.

'He was enormously successful as an image for our club. With him on the pitch we won the UEFA Cup (in 1998) and twice came close to winning the Serie A title.'



FIFA to combat racism with point deductions, relegation

Written by: Francisco Barreto Under new regulations approved by FIFA's executive comittee, clubs whose fans engage in racist abuse will be deducted points and possibly relegated.

The penalties are staggered, resulting in a three point deduction for the first offense, six points for a second and relegation for any further incidents.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter said: 'I have repeatedly stressed FIFA's and my firm personal stance against racism and discrimination.

'But recent events have demonstrated there is a need for concerted action and an urgency for more severe measures to be adopted in order to kick this evil out of the beautiful game.

'I am therefore extremely pleased the football family and the FIFA executive committee have today taken a big step in this direction.'

FIFA member associations must now incorporate the new penalties into their regulations or face being excluded from international football for up to two years.

Source: Soccer Way

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Katsa's Korner with George Katsamboukas



Another week, another controversy! Lights out but everyone's still home at Bartlett Reserve where Richmond was finally given the opportunity to play a home game.

Unfortunately, the Eagle's first home game in the VODAFONE CUP will be remembered for the wrong reasons. Heidelberg was up 2-0 at the 31st minute, lights go out, never to reappear.

Spare a thought for Heidelberg and Phil Stubbins, who finally found some form after a very shaky start to the season. According to Football Federation Victoria (FFV) Rules, and I am sure that they will correct me if I'm wrong, the game will have to be replayed in its entirety with a commencing score line of 0-0.

I'm sure my colleague Boo will enlighten us all in his weekly feature of Boo's Corner as the causes of this mishap.

Epping Stadium became infamous for its

flood lights going out during games being played there a couple of seasons ago and Bullen has also had their moments with flood light failure.

What amazes me is that we can send men to the moon, men can become women overnight and vice versa, vet we cannot master the simple art of keeping continuous power running to a number of light poles that contain globes.

Meanwhile, whilst Richmond Officials were busily trying to restore lighting at Bartlett Reserve, Jack Edwards Reserve was the scene of another Houdini act by the Oakleigh Cannons.

Staring defeat against the Essendon Royals, another get out of jail card was found by the Cannons, who equalised in the 92nd minute. It was a mirror image of Oakleigh's last home game against Kingston City a fortnight ago, when once again it found itself 2-1 down and the equaliser was scored in injury time.

The State and Provisional Leagues are commencing in two weeks time and the many Soccer "junkies", number one culprit being vours truly, are looking forward to being able to watch five matches a week.

Matches on Friday nights, Saturday afternoons and nights. Sunday afternoons and Monday Nights is just what the Doctor ordered.

As soon as the English Premier League is completed, English bookmakers will be turning their attention to matches being played in Australia.

Believe it or not local game results are of interest to people from all over the world, especially the English Soccerpools competition, which allows us to actually place bets on Victorian State League matches whilst their domestic leagues are in recess.

Last year, I received a call from a gentleman in Nigeria interested in knowing the outcome of a game played here, just five minutes after it had ended.

Firstly, I thought that it was a practical joke revenge for the many practical jokes that I had played on people over the years, however the caller was genuine and unfortunately for him, the result that I gave him was not the one that he was looking for.

The Father/Son Rule Story from last weeks edition certainly ruffled some feathers.

However, I did forget to mention last week another way that Dad's attempt to influence the success of their sons at clubs. It is with the use of what makes the world go around and that is \$\$\$\$

Student Name:

If currently playing at a football club:

Parents name and approval signature:

"Pick young Johnny in your squad, and I will sponsor the club, or I will have my boss sponsor the Club."

This is very tempting for Committee members who hear the "ching ching" in their ears of much needed money coming into the club. However spare a thought for the coach who is asked, sorry, told by the Committee, to play young Johnny, so as Daddy can provide \$\$\$\$ to the Club.

Coaches have actually lost their jobs when they have refused to play these players.

I have witnessed Coaches actually cave into this pressure and I have seen others that have stood their ground and refused to be told who to pick and play.

Moral of the story is that coaches should not be placed into these uncomfortable situations.

This is Katsa – But not as You've known

If you want to get something off your chest vou can now contact me on katsa@goalweekly.com all feedback is much appreci-

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EASTER LIONS SEEKS JUNIOR PLAYERS

Eastern Lions Soccer Club Under 15's Super League team is urgently looking for more boys to strengthen its squad for the upcoming 2006

- Runners up in Under14's Super League 2005
- · Development pathway to Eastern Lions Senior Team - 2nd State League Players will be strongly linked to our senior club which has a strong focus on developing our junior and youth players.

Please contact Head Coach Tony Merakis on 0407147321 or Vlad Merkin on 0413 300 297 to find out more about this opportunity. Closing day for trials is on the 6th of April, 2006.

PORT MELBOURNE WSC SEEKS KEEPER

Port Melbourne WSC is looking for a shot stopper/goal-keeper for all enquiries contact Therese Duffy on 0418 185 875. Ready to start immediately training at SS Anderson Reserve, Port Melbourne.

SOCIAL INDOOR TEAM SEEKS GK

Keeper needed for social indoor soccer team. No training just matches on a Monday and a few bevies required at the Pub afterwards. Phone Rich on 0432 438 508.

RIVERSDALE SEEKS PLAYERS

Riversdale Soccer Club requires players for our U11, U14A & U16A teams.

Excellent development program, good potential to move into senior teams

Camberwell/Burwood area.

Contact Rob McPhee on 0422 003 806 or riversdale@vsf.org.au

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS JSC SEEKS PLAYERS

Under 13 Super League team is urgently looking for a goalkeeper and a player to finalise the team for the upcoming season.

The team finished runners-up in the 2005 sea-

Melbourne Knights Under-12A team are also looking for players. All teams are coached by very experienced coaches.

Please contact Zelko Zahtila on 0414 517 477 if vou are interested.



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Bayside Football League...With Steve Gray

Q&A WITH MT.LILYDALE VICE PRESIDENT JOE DRAGO



One of the biggest question marks in regards to the 2006 Bayside Premier League is the emergence of a newly formed club haling from the distant north known as Mt Lilydale Old Collegians.

The club presented itself impressively and professionally in front of the member clubs when requesting its entry into the league. "Ambitious" can also apply to this club as they also wanted to join the highest division in the league, that being the Premier League. It looked doubtful at first as the league would rather see them do well in the lower divisions first, but when Endeavour Sports failed to meet the deadline to submit teams, Mt Lilydale was given the go ahead.

Vice President of the club Joe Drago gave up some of his time to answer some questions, giving Goal! Weekly an insight into the inner workings of Mt Lilydale.

Q. How did the club come into existence?

A. We basically formed the club due to our dream of one day starting our own club. The support of friends and family made our decision easier. We ran an open day and when we received the response from past and present students of our affiliated Mt Lilydale Mercy College and local based players the plan was looking a lot better than we expected. From then on we haven't looked back, with 32 signed players a strong committee and an experienced coach we are looking forward to our first official season as a club.

Q. What do you believe is the clubs realistic targets considering the club is in it infancy and will be against the best in the Bayside Premier League?

A. The club has set some very high targets of itself in its first year. We realize we are in the best league the Bayside League has to offer and we will do everything we can to be competitive. The team strength and morale is massive, with a coach who is structuring the team into one which strives on success and victory. We won't go down easy as we have a wide and experienced range of players with the skills and determination to win!

Q. Why did the club submit to the Bayside League as the league of choice?

A. We decided to join the Bayside League from some very good feedback. A committee member bumped into a few referees of the league and they spoke only praise of your league, so we looked into your league, attended your meeting and were impressed with the set-up. We put our proposal forward and were accepted into your Premier League.

Q. Which team, if any, would you like to beat the most in the Bayside Premier League?

A.We don't really know much about teams in the Premier League. We have an idea on who are the stronger teams in the league, but our goal would be definitely to upset a few big name clubs and really stamp our name on the 2006 Premier

Q. What do you view as the positive aspects of the Mt Lilydale club?

A. The positive aspects of our club would have to be our work rate and determination. We are a very close knit group of players with the passion to succeed. The team has worked extremely hard in the pre-season and we hope the hard work shows in the season. We also enjoy a very interesting social environment around the club. The team is still very young and the social rooms get exposed to a lot of jokes and stories which keeps the team amused and bonded together as one.



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CHURCHES KEEP GROWING



Season 2006 is just around the corner and the Victorian Churches Soccer Association (VCSA) is getting ready for its biggest and tightest competition yet.

The VCSA will now conduct five strong

divisions with 10 teams in each for its Mens senior competitions. All the big clubs like North Blackburn, Berwick Churches, Knox Churches, Morrison and Mitcham are title contenders again this season and adding to the excitement there are some new comers as well.

Amongst the new clubs joining the party are Casey Spirit and Endeavour Hills who will be out to prove a point amidst the big boys.

Also in the mix are the newly merged clubs; Bayswater Strikers and Canterbury Gardens. Bayswater and Canterbury Gardens have had a great pre-season with new senior coach Brian Suttie taking the reins and some great pick-ups with the likes of Mat Morrell, Stefan Rangers will be playing in the annual Koomen, Will Varon and Anthony Sid-



dell. The club is expecting big things this year.

Bayswater, Canterbury and Sherbrooke

Marks Place cup (pre-season cup final). Consisting of three games between the Mens senior and Reserves teams and also Ladies, the day should be a huge event with a big crowd expected.

Events kick off at 11:00am at Sasses Reserve, Terama Crescent Bayswater.

On top of the Mens senior competition the VCSA also has a very strong ladies competetion and one of the most participated junior competitions for all details log on to www.VCSA.org.au.

This Saturday 25th of March

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WOMEN'S PREMIER LENGUE ROUND 3





WPL WRAP WITH NIKI COOK



Round 3 of the Vodafone WPL brought with it cooler, more favourable playing conditions, which clearly proved more suitable for several teams in the league, with three clubs taking advantage and registering their maiden victories of the new season.

Having played its first two matches of the season on home turf for a return of zero points. Eastern Lions found greater success on the road as it defeated Brimbank by two unanswered goals. With Brimbank also still searching for its first win, this was a clash that could have gone either way, but the Lions made sure of the points with two strikes in the first half, before shutting out its hosts for the second period. As a result of its first win of the campaign, Eastern Lions is eighth on the ladder, with Brimbank eleventh after three consecutive defeats.

RJ Stiltoe Reserve did not prove a 'home sweet home' for Sandringham on Saturday, as its unbeaten start to life in the WPL was ended by Bendigo Vipers. The regional side, which resumed its campaign after a week's hiatus last weekend, scored twice to Sandringham's one to pick up its second victory in as many games. There was nothing to separate the sides at half time, with both teams having scored once, but it was the Vipers who broke the deadlock to take the points and climb to third on the ladder. Sandringham, despite the upset, remains top on goal difference.

With BT Connor Reserve having been deemed unplayable, Preston Lions' clash with Eltham North was moved to Partington Flats. Eltham, having apparently parted company with their coach following last weekend's loss to Cranbourne, proved that a change is as good as a rest as it was able to record its first points of the season with a hard fought victory over the Lions. Eltham edged out the visitors by two goals to one, to end Preston's winning streak at one. Despite the result, Preston remains ahead of Eltham on goal difference, with the sides sitting ninth and tenth on the ladder respectively.

Keilor Park picked up its first win of the season, with a 5-2 triumph over South Melbourne, to leave the Albert Park side languishing at the

foot of the ladder. Three first half goals set up the victory for Keilor, with the visitors managing one in reply. South reminded competitive throughout, pegging the home side back to 3-2 midway through the second half, before two late goals sealed the win, and the points, for Keilor. The victory lifts the western suburbs team to seventh on the ladder, with a game

The league resumes with a full complement of matches for Round 4, with Cranbourne, Box Hill, Heidelberg and Ashburton all returning to the fray after a week without competition. The reigning premier gets the round underway on Friday night at Wembley Park, when it faces a Keilor Park side buoyed by its first win of the season. Preston is scheduled to face Ashburton at BT Connor Reserve on Saturday, but the ground difficulties facing Preston will most likely result in the fixture being relocated. Also on Saturday, South Melbourne travels to Bendigo, still in search of a win, to take on the undefeated Vipers, while Eltham North will look to make it two wins in a row at Partington Flats against struggling Brimbank. Gardiners Creek Reserve sees two teams with differing fortunes in Round 3, Eastern Lions and Sandringham, face off against each other, while Comets Stadium is the venue for the likely match of the round, when the Comets host Heidelberg United.

By Niki Cook



ROUND 3 RESULTS

KEILOR PARK- SOUTH MELBOURNE 5-2 PRESTON LIONS - ELTHAM NORTH 1-2 SANDRINGHAM - BENDIGO 1-2 BRIMBANK - EASTERN LIONS 0-2



SANDRIGNHAM	3	2	0	1	15	2	6
HEIDELBERG	2	2	0	0	10	2	6
BENDIGO	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
BOX HILL	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
COMETS	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
BENDIGO	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
ASHBURTON	2	1	0	1	10	3	3
KEILOR PARK	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
PRESTON	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
ELTHAM NORTH	3	1	0	2	2	7	3
BRIMBANK	3	0	0	3	0	15	0
STH MELBOURNE	3	0	0	3	4	20	0

WPL TABLE

ROUND FOUR FIXTURES

BOX HILL INTER

KEILOR PARK Wembley Park, Box Hill MEL: 61 F1 Friday 24th March

PRESTON LIONS

KO 8.15PM

ASHBURTON BT Connor Reserve,

Preston MEL: 18 B2 Saturday 25th March KO 1PM

BENDIGO VIPERS

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Strathfieldsaye Sport Complex, Cub Crt, Bendigo Saturday 25th March KO 2.30PM

ELTHAM NORTH

BRIMBANK

Partington Flats, Greensborough MEL: 10 K12 Saturday 25th March KO 3PM

EASTERN LIONS

SANDRINGHAM

Gardiners Creek Reserve, Burwood MEL: 60 J8 Sunday 16th March KO 1PM

CRANBOURNE COMETS

HEIDELBERG UTD

Comets Stadium, Cranbourne MEL: 133 G6

Sunday 26th March KO 1PM



THE TASTE OF THAI WITH THE SPICE OF PORT MELBOURNE



BOO'S WORLD

A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

It was an interesting night last Friday at Kevin Bartlett Reserve. It has led to Richmond adopting a new club song, "Baby When The Lights Go Out" by UK boy band Five, which just pipped some tunes by The Darkness in a tight vote.

Baby when the lights go out Every single word can not express, the love and tenderness I'll show you what it's all about

Not much love and tenderness shown by angry Heidelberg fans, and talk around the ground quickly turned to accusations of conspiracy. Clearly they were ignorant of previous German problems with (light) Poles.

Having advised Preston Lions to see the Wizard of Oz about getting a scarecrow last week, I will be off to see Dick Smith this week to acquire some fuses for the power box at Richmond.

This column would also like to join in the growing chorus that Katsa's Corner promised so much in the beginning, but has failed to deliver. Though I thought the main promise would be more pictures of attractive girls in football shirts.

Preston Lions have signed Carlos Alberto Barreto Macedo from Brazilian club Sobradinho. Ernie Merrick is still trying to sign a Brazilian for Melbourne Victory, he may be having trouble getting those long Brazilian names down on a contract form.



Pitty the Dick Smith Electronics store on Bridge Road Richmond is not there anymore.

The World Cup trophy was on display in Sydney this week. It was accompanied by heavy security, insisted upon by FIFA after Sydney FC lost their A-League Championship trophy after just a week. They hope to retrieve it soon, it seems maintenance staff mistook it for a spare toilet seat and a seach of the

facilities at Aussie Stadium is expected to produce the A League's biggest prize.

Dwight Yorke has returned to England to prepare for the World Cup. Shame he couldn't have come to Melbourne and perhaps represent Trinidad and Tobago in some the Commonwealth Games events you don't have to be any good at to get into.

Until next week,

I can see clearly now.

You can send in your thoughts to Mark Boric of Boo's World by emailing him at the following adress:

boricm@goalweekly.com

And remember to be nice!

ON THE BOX

The FFV Football Show

Channel 31
Wednesday, 9pm
Featuring Vodafone Cup highlights of
Frankston Pines v Kingston

The Green Gully Soccer Show Channel 31 Saturdays, 10.30am

EPL, Liverpool v Everton Fox Sports 1 Sunday 26th March, 1am

EPL, Wigan v West Ham Fox Sports 1 Sunday 26th March, 2am

EPL, Portsmouth v Arsenal Fox Sports 1 Sunday 26th March, 4.15am

EPL, M'Borough v BoltonFox Sports 1
Monday 27th March, 12.30am

EPL, Man Utd v Birmingham Fox Sports 1 Monday 27th March, 2am

EPL, Tottenham v W Brom Fox Sports 1 Tuesday 28th March, 6am

The World Game SBS Sundays, 2pm – 5.30pm

GOAL! WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

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FOOTBALL FUNNY

A Sydney FC supporter goes to his doctor, who happens to be a Melbourne Victory fan, to find out what's wrong with him.

"Your problem is you're fat, "says the doctor. "I'd like a second opinion" responds the man. "OK, you're ugly too" replies the doctor.

QUIZ ANSWERS

7. Perth Glory's Bobby Despotovski, 9. 1892. 9. 1892. The 1963 Final. 1. The Crawford Report
2. Federation International de Rootball Association
3. PACK of Salonika
4. Spain defeated Italy 2-1 in the Final
The Final
5. South Action
The State
The

ON THE AIRWAVES

The Sunday Roast Show

Casey Radio 97.7FM
Sunday, 2-5pm
Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup
with Paul Jefferies.

The 90th Minute SEN 1116

Sundays 5pm onwards
With Michael Zappone and
former Socceroo lehgend Paul Trimboli.

Monday Night Football

96.5 Inner FM
Mondays 8pm
Featuring coverage
of the Vodafone Cup with John Canaglia.

QUICK QUIZ

- 1. What was the name of the report that suggested monumental changes to Australian soccer's governance, structure and management in 2003?
- 2. What does FIFA actually stand for?
- 3. With which Greek First Division club did South Melbourne coach John Anastasiadis star for in his playing days?
- 4. Who won the last Futsal World Championship in 2004. Was it Brazil, Italy or Spain?
- 5. Officially, the Socceroos' record loss in a full international is an 8-0 scoreline in a match played in Adelaide in 1955. Was the opponent England, South Africa or Hungary?
- 6. Perth Glory's Alan Vest was once the coach of which now defunct team in the old NSL?
- 7. Who won the A-league's Player of the Year Award last week?
- 8. Ben Harbinson switched from Essendon Royals to which other Vodafone Cup side during the close season?
- 9. Goal-nets were first used in official football matches in 1892, 1902 or 1922?
- 10. Which was the first Italian team to lift the European Cup/ Champions League trophy?

GiveMeF⊕⊕tball

96.5 Inner FM Mondays 8pm

Vodafone Cup Monday Night Football with John Caniglia

\$3,000 A- LEAGUE COMPENSATION FARCE

With the A-League in recess, teams from the elite competition will have a chance to reassess their playing stocks for year two of the A-League competition. Scouts and coaches from the A-League have already been spotted trawling the Vodafone Cup venues for potential new recruits.

I guess it is a marked sign of respect on the strength of the Victorian State competition with the number of Vodafone Cup players being linked to various A-League clubs. Unfortunately, the Football Federation Australia (FFA) seems to have sacrificed the lower league clubs ability to negotiate on player transfers. The maximum monetary compensation a Vodafone Cup club (or any club for that matter in Australia) can receive for a player that is picked by an A-League franchise, is a poultry \$3,000.

The \$3000 transfer fee virtually amounts to exploitation, as the grass root clubs of Australia, which are mostly run by volunteers who invest copious amount of money in developing and grooming the stars of tomorrow.

Virtually the only thing an A-League club has to spend on developing players is the \$3,000 transfer fee payed to lower league clubs, considering A-League doesn't have any Youth competition or second tier competition to develop players. It's actually quite farcical bearing in mind that state league clubs shoulder most of the expenses developing players, while the multimillion dollar A-League clubs only have to pay a pittance for what state league clubs have developed over the years.

What makes this situation more comical was the whole Archie Thompson transfer affair. The 'Bosman ruling' which was brought in to stop 'the restriction of trade' (Literally to stop players from being held at ransom by unscrupulous clubs) was blatantly flaunted by the Melbourne Victory. The Melbourne franchise tried to suck out every dollar they could for a player they had on their books for just over six months, not really taking

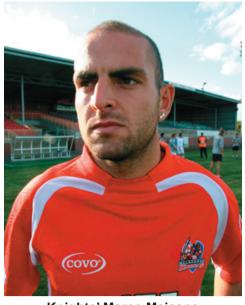
into account the players well being and aspirations. It was obvious that Archie wanted to get out of here ASAP and the only thing that Victory cared for was the dollar sign on Thompson's back.

It is definitely time for the A-League clubs to pay their dues back home so to speak, as the 'Bosman ruling' tries to stop 'the restriction of trade', the \$3,000 transfer fee payed out to Vodafone Cup clubs for player transfers must break some sort of 'anti-competitive law'. At the end of the day all clubs are run like businesses, no matter how small or large they all compete for a share of the market. It would be better for a Vodafone Cup club to lose a player to a rival Vodafone Cup club or an overseas team where adequate compensation can be sought. But even the current transfer system between clubs in the state competition is flawed, as there seems to be an uneven parity from transfer to transfer.

How ridiculous and debilitating could this meagre compensation scheme be for a Vodafone Cup club? Well, let's take a look at South Melbourne as an example, where a number of its squad members could become possible targets for the various A-League clubs. It is possible but highly improbable that the Victorian titan could lose up to five of its players to the A-League, and that's not including their captain Vaughn Coveney. Brazilian Fernando De Moraes, Trinidadian Kevin Nelson, Jonas Sally from the Ivory Coast, Tansel Baser, and Con Blatsis. So for \$15,000, the Vodafone Cup title aspirants could become a very good U/21 team virtually overnight.

It's time that the FFA changes this ridiculous law, and allows clubs at state level to be compensated accordingly. At the end of the day, does the A-League exist because of the strong grass root and state competitions, or vice versa?

By Bruno Zovko



Knights' Marco Maisano



South's Fernando De Moraes

The players pictured are worth only \$3000 to any A-League club.

How much their transfer fee fetch if a fellow Vodafone Cup side wanted their signature?

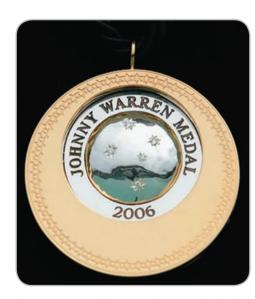


Kingston's Joe Di Iorio



Preston's Serkan Oksuz

IT'S OFFICIAL: BOBBY IS THE BEST!



The A-Leagues' inaugural season had the football public expecting the best but fearing the worst. With this in mind it is fair to say that very few people were really thinking about who would take out the player of the year award. Well after an enormous first season with success on all fronts bar the dismal attendances at a couple of venues, everyone got the chance to sit back and reflect on the individual brilliance of the league's stars.

At the start Bobby Despotovski was considered a distant choice to win any individual awards as many believed his days of glory were left behind with the old National Soccer League (NSL). It also safe to say that very few Melbournians would have picked him for anything considering the long-lasting drama that followed his three-finger salute to the Croatian fans at Knights Stadium, but that's another story altogether.

Steering away from politics, it turned out that players like Despotovski and Steve Corica who shined in the old NSL were actually the ones who stood out from the crowd. Even South Melbourne's Vaughn Coveney, who had been playing in the VPL for the last year or so made a huge impact when he joined the Newcastle Jets.

Although Perth Glory enjoyed a mediocre season finishing outside the top four, Despotovski's peers recognised his efforts and ultimately rewarded him with the Johnny Warren Medal named after the great man himself.

Despotovski who's had his fair share of runins with the powers that be over the past few years, still managed to edge out Sydney's Dwight York. It seems the FFA didn't want to give the glamour boy all the goodies and so an old face won out by eleven votes.

"I honestly didn't have much expectations about my own performances...at my age I was lucky to play with these guys," said a stunned Despotovski on his medal win.

Deep down I knew that the league was going to work, with the great support from Hyundai and Foxtel and everybody else who is on board and especially with Frank Lowy and his team, definitely is going to work, but for me I was just happy to play," added Despotovski.

Coming third in the running was Alex Brosque; one of the leagues brightest talents who is ironically now going to Yorke's former club and current title holders Sydney FC.

Other notable achievements at the A-League's 'night of nights' was the Coach of the Year prize going to Central Coast Mariners boss Lawrie McKinna. A well deserved honour considering his side reached the Grand Final after embarking on a 12 match unbeaten run before losing out against Syd-

ney FC as well as having to contend with a series of injuries to key players for much of his campaign.

His team was also recognised with four of his players getting into the top ten of the voting these included Tom Pondeljak, Andre Gumprecht, Dean Heffernan and Noel Spencer; all of whom were instrumental in getting the unfancied Mariners to the Grand Final. In the end McKinna proved that if you have a good organised side you don't always have to have the best players to succeed

The Golden Boot award was shared amongst four players with Despotovski involved in the mix as well. The prize went to Alex Brosque, Melbourne Victory's departed striker Archie Thompson and Central Coast's Stewart Petrie all whom scored eight goals each.

One can only hope that Melbourne plays a bigger part in next year's celebrations and the title holder is wearing a darker shade of blue

By Paul Jefferies

FOOTBALL FOCUS...WITH ERIC VASSILIADIS

Eric Vassiliadis - Heidelberg United

Position: Midfield

Age: 31

Nickname: Eckers Height: 174cms Weight: 79kgs

Previous clubs: Heidelberg juniors and

Fawkner (2 seasons)

Outfield player you most enjoy watching in the VPL?

Stubsy at training and Joey Di Orio at

Kingston!

In the world?

Ronaldinho and George Georgiadis

Hardest keeper and team to score against?

Jim Kourtis and Green Gully (I know Jim doesn't play for GG!)

Occupation?

Stockbroking

Craziest team mate of all time?

Has to be a tie between Doug Hodgson and Morace Gonzalez ..oh and Lou Acevski!

Most influential coach of all time?

Michael Urakalo and Stubsy (lovyason!)

Most memorable match as a player? 2001 VPL GF win and beating Preston 2-1 last year at a time when we were under immense pressure (Eckers scores

As a fan?

both goals!)

Greece 1 -0 Euro champs! (Yiasou boys!)

Where were you when Australia drew 2-2 with Iran?

In heaven and then in hell – at the MCG!

And when Australia qualified for the World Cup against Uruguay?

Babysitting at home – Stana (the wife) was out shopping!

Predict the following results: Australia vs Japan – 1 - 0 Australia vs Brazil – 0 - 1 Australia vs Croatia – 1 - 1

Your tip for the 2006 World Cup?
Brazil – real outsiders could be Greece!

Representative honours?

Vic team 2001 and 2002 - I know a bloke

that played for Australia once!

Most memorable goal you've scored? Against Preston last year – a strike from about 30m – brilliant son!

Worst injury:

Osteitis pubis.

Funniest moment in football? Watching Peter Pssaros try and play.

Record number of juggles in single attempt?

Three.

Steak, chicken parma or seafood? Five steaks.

Chips, veggies or salad?

Veggies (relax Stubsy!)

Pizza or souvlaki? Zorbas!



Favourite drink, non alcoholic and alcoholic?

Chinnotto / Vodka Cranberry.

Favourite nightspot?

With 2 kids it has to be at home (and Alumbra with Adam Kose!)

My next holiday destination is... Port Douglas.

Kitchen whiz or home handyman? Handyman for sure.

What's in the CD player right now? Bob the Builder theme song.

Dream date?

December 2 (or do you mean like a chick or something?).

First Heidelberg United player you'd invite to a party?

Tony Ouliaris (chick magnet).

On the end of season trip, the last player to shout drinks will be...

Peter Roberts (his chqs bounce!)

Match day superstitions or rituals? Wear Number 6 jersey.

Typical matchday meal?

The usual Pasta and lots of water.

Favorite sporting team while growing up?

Liverpool.

What are your strengths? Right peg and determination.

What are your weaknesses?
Left peg and lack of height – and my arse

Ten pin bowling or skydiving? Bowling.

Toughest opponent?

(can I say that?)

Dean Fak.

Select a player that you play most like?

A combination of Billy Damianos (I don't pass) and Nick Marinos (I shoot from anywhere) and Nick Sabljak (I never tackle).

Which team do you select when playing FIFA soccer on a computer game? These days its Barcelona or Greece – sick re!

What is the last soccer shirt you bought?

Charisteas number 9 (size 2 for my son!)

Funniest rumour you have heard about yourself?

Transferring to South Melbourne.

Childhood soccer idol? Diego Maradona.

Favorite former Socceroo? Oscar Crino.

Favourite Current Socceroo? Harry Kewel when fit.

What song or movie to do you get inspiration from?

Love Rocky 3 (you know...with Mr T).



Do you watch Footballers Wives? Only if they look at me first (.....no I don't watch the show either).

Best away ground you like to visit? Bulleen on a Monday night.

If I didn't play football I'd play... Cricket.

What fictional character would you most like to be; why?

Superman because I always wanted to wear a cape...and having X ray vision.

Hollywood is making a movie about your career. Who would you select to play you in a movie?

That guy from Duce Bigalow.

Any other bits of Eric Vassiliadis trivia you want us to reveal?

If anyone has \$1m or more to invest please call me for advice!

By John Bonacci

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